

Hafa Adai!

Saipan pump prices
down 15 cents.

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US govt arranges parole for woman
suing CBP officers.

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

House speakership still up for grabs

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With just three days to go before the 19th House of Representatives opens shop, none of the three contenders for the post of speaker has attained the 11 majority votes needed to become the next leader of the lower chamber.

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the impasse just goes to show that he, floor leader Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) have an overwhelming passion to serve as the speaker of the next House.

"I guess the three individuals remain steady."

See HOUSE on Page 4

'THIS IS NOT GOODBYE'

Good friends Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) embrace following the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's *sine die* session at the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill. Looking on is Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), yet another of Reyes' close friends in the Legislature. Reyes is retiring after 23 years in the House of Representatives and Senate.

MARK RABAGO



Dialysis center's plan of correction OK'd

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has accepted and officially approved the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s plan of correction for the dialysis center, according to CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna.



Muna

The dialysis center passed a CMS survey last

See DIALYSIS on Page 4

80 potential jurors for trial of Saipan Air suit

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered yesterday the clerk of court or her deputy clerks to summon 80 prospective jurors from a jury pool to appear at the trial of Saipan Air's Inc.'s lawsuit against two of three Swift Air executives.

The jury trial is set to start on Feb. 2, 2015, at 10am.

At a pretrial conference on Tuesday, Manglona ordered the parties in the lawsuit to notify the court no later than today, Friday, about their possible request for a follow-up



Manglona

settlement conference.

Manglona granted attorney Michael White's request that the list of potential jurors be provided sooner than three days before the trial.

White and attorney Nathan Duggins are representing defendants Jeffrey Conry and Boris Van Lier. Attorney Steven Pixley is counsel for

See JURORS on Page 4

Dynasty retains NY lawyer for criminal case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino has hired Patrick J. Smith, a former federal prosecutor in the CNMI who has been named a New York super lawyer, to assist a local attorney in the criminal

case filed against the company.

Bruce Berline, counsel for Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. that owns Tinian Dynasty, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that Smith has been retained to assist as his co-counsel in the

See DYNASTY on Page 4

INSIDE

ASIA

Experts are trying to figure out how to remove the AirAsia passenger jet's black boxes.

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WORLD

One man sought in the deadly shooting at a French satirical paper has turned himself in.

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LIFE & STYLE

Gay advocates criticize a new TV show called "My Husband's Not Gay."

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Local



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‘My door is always open’

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lieutenant governor-elect and Senate President Ralph DLG Torres (R-Saipan) believes that with his insights on the inner workings of the Legislature, he can serve as a bridge between the Executive Branch and the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The 35-year-old vowed to his colleagues in the Senate that he

would continue to work with them even as he takes up residence at the Lieutenant Governor’s Office next door.

“As I move over to the other side, rest assured I would give even more effort and every energy that I have to work with you as I know the process from House and the Senate. I know what you guys need and what you guys want. My door is always open for all of you guys,” he said during the Senate

die session last Tuesday.

Before winning a Senate seat, Torres served as lawmaker in the House of Representatives.

Aside from promising to cooperate with the Legislature, Torres also thanked his family and supporters during his farewell speech at the upper chamber.

Most especially he extended his love to his wife, Dianne, and their five children. Torres even managed to get laughs from his

fellow senators and the gallery when said he’s done his fair share of work not only in public service but also in his household “with five kids in nine years of marriage.”

Torres also took the time to thank his three older brothers—Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin. His voice almost cracked when he thanked their mother, who gamely campaigned for her youngest son during the

See DOOR on Page 4



Torres

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Saipan pump prices down 15 cents

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan motorists enjoyed an-

other rollback on pump prices yesterday afternoon after Mobil Oil Marianas and Shell Marian-

as both lowered their prices by 15 cents, with regular gas finally

selling below \$4 a gallon. Mobil gas stations on island rolled back their pump prices

around 3pm. It saw their regular unleaded gasoline go down to \$3.91 from \$4.06 a gallon.

Super unleaded gasoline, meanwhile, went down to \$4.23 from \$4.38 a gallon, while the price of diesel was slashed to \$4.37 from \$4.52 a gallon.

Shell mirrored Mobil's price decrease an hour later at around 4pm. Its V-Power now sells at \$3.91 per gallon, down from \$4.06 a gallon.

The oil company's full service gasoline also went down 15 cents to \$4.19 from \$4.34 a gallon. Shell gasoline stations also now sell their diesel at \$4.37.

Despite the reduction of gas prices on Saipan, gas stations on Tinian continue to sell their regular gasoline at \$5.22 per gallon, while diesel is at \$5.80. *Saipan Tribune* wasn't able to verify the price of gas on Rota.

For Mabel Subang of Garapan, the recent decreases in gas prices are heaven sent for her family of five. She said lower

gas prices means more money they can now spend for other essentials like food. Subang said her family spends around \$70 to \$80 a week on fuel.

Ira Valle, who lives in Susupe, said she didn't actually feel past rollbacks but is more optimistic this time as regular gasoline finally dipped below \$4 this year. She said she spends \$25 a week on fuel.

NMC looks to incentivize CNMI apprenticeship program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

A successful apprenticeship program in the CNMI would need the essential mentors or journeymen to train students in the program, according to Northern Marianas College dean of administration and resource development David Attao. While he said this "education component" might be lacking in the CNMI, incentives for businesses to partake in these programs may free up money for them to hire these much-needed trainers.

He said incentives for businesses are what NMC, Public School System, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and other CNMI departments are including in the language of a grant proposal for \$2 million to \$5 million from the U.S. Department of Labor for apprenticeship programs nationwide.

Labor announced \$100 million for approximately 25 grants nationwide last December for expanding registered apprenticeships. In 2006, NMC was authorized to establish such a program with Public Law 15-5

but, according to Attao, funds were never appropriated for the program since that time.

"When it comes to the real need and what is expected of an apprenticeship program, the CNMI doesn't have the educational components to meet that," he said.

He said it can take from \$4,400 to \$6,000 to get a student properly trained.

He said that in talks with U.S. Labor officials, he has been told that an apprenticeship program would be difficult without the mentors or journeymen to help get the program started.

Apprenticeship would require formal education training plus on-the-job training, to be led by such a mentor with experience and certification to do so. But, according to Attao, "NMTI's not ready, NMC is not ready" for that.

"Everywhere else it's a challenge to get that journeyman, because it's a burden on the business to have that kind of trainer to monitor people everyday."

He said in the U.S. mainland, there are incentives provided to businesses to join these pro-

grams but "that's not what we have here."

"This new grant that we are trying to write has language that would allow that to happen. Incentives will allow businesses to free up that money and bring in trainers for those areas."

He said NMC has pushed for tax incentives for businesses to be identified as the source of funding for their own apprenticeship program in years past, to no success.

"If [the tax breaks] went through, it would support the [NMC apprenticeship] program. It would have offset the [unfunded mandate of Public Law] 15-5 and would have helped us help the community."

It would be difficult for NMC to pull from its own pocket \$5 million to create such a program, as in the first place they ask for \$7 million from the government, he said.

"There's a misnomer out there that we are not doing apprenticeship. We are trying but based on what we've encountered, people want full salaries, full employee pay with the funds we use."

See NMC on Page 3

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Over 1K library cards issued in 2014

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Over 1,000 library cards were issued last year, topping the total number of library cards issued in 2013, according to Joteten Kiyu Public Library's circulation supervisor Ray Deleon Guerrero.

He said that 1,659 cards were issued last year through the library and through its Bookmo-

bile program. The library issued 1,149 library cards in 2013.

The month with the most library cards issued last year was in November, totaling 178, followed by March with 176; June, 160; October, 156; and December, 150.

The total number of cards issued at the library was

1,171 and while the Bookmobile program doled out a total to 488.

Although the amount collected in penalties for 2014 is not immediately available, Deleon Guerrero said they send patrons with late, overdue, lost, or damaged fees notices twice every two years.

"The limit for each patron notice is up to four and if they do not respond to the notices they will no longer be allowed to borrow items and use the computer section as long as their fines are still pending," Deleon Guerrero said.

The library currently has 69,693 books and library materials as of December 2014.

About 254 new books and items were recently added to

its collection.

Deleon Guerrero said that there are about 37,670 patrons registered in the library system as of December 2014. Back in

2013, a total of 85,721 were registered.

For more information on availing of a library cards to check out books and use the library's IT center, call 235-7322 or visit them along Beach Road, Susupe near the Multi-Purpose Center.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

defense of HKE in the criminal case.

Berline asked the court to allow Smith to appear and serve as his co-counsel in this case.

Smith, who now resides in New York, is a partner with the law firm DLA Piper, a global law firm that reportedly has 4,200 lawyers in more than 30 countries throughout the Americas, Asia Pacific, Europe and the Middle East.

Smith served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. District Courts for the NMI and Guam from 2002 to 2005.

In his declaration filed in fed-

eral court yesterday, Smith said HKE specifically desires that he be involved, along with Berline, to represent it in the case.

Smith has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America. He received the U.S. Department of Justice's Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service and is a two-time recipient of the Director's Award for Superior Performance as an assistant U.S. attorney.

From 1995 to 2002 or before he was assigned to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Districts of the CNMI and Guam, Smith was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York.

According to DLA Piper's website, as a then-member of

the Southern District's Securities and Commodities Fraud Task Force, Smith investigated and prosecuted complex securities fraud schemes involving financial statement fraud, insider trading and market manipulation.

The superseding indictment has charged HKE with conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report, 155 counts of failure to file currency transaction reports, failure to file a suspicious activity report, and failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program.

The initial indictment had charged HKE and then-VIP services manager George Que and then-casino manager Tim Blyth with only 10 charges.

According to the indictment, HKE allowed gamblers at Tinian Dynasty to conduct transactions involving more than \$10,000 without filing currency transaction reports, or CTRs, with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN, from Sept. 2009 to April 25, 2013.

Tinian Dynasty allegedly failed to file about 3,640 CTRs for cash transactions over \$10,000 as required by law. The total dollar amount of reportable currency transactions that were not filed is about \$1.38 million.

Que and Blyth had entered into a settlement deal with the U.S. government in exchange for the dismissal of the criminal charges against them.

JURORS

From Page 1

Saipan Air Inc.

Last month, Manglona ruled that Saipan Air's fraud claim against Conry and Van Lier shall proceed, but not against Donald A. Stukes.

Manglona also granted summary judgment in favor of Conry, Van Lier, and Stukes in Saipan Air's claims for violations of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act and for unjust enrichment. This means that Saipan Air's RICO and unjust enrichment claims in the lawsuit are dismissed.

The trial will be against Conry and Van Lier relating to the fraud claims.

Conry and Van Lier are currently employed by Arizona-based Swift Air, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2013.

Saipan Air filed the racketeering lawsuit against Conry, Van Lier, and Donald A. Stukes in

July 2012.

Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection in Arizona shortly after notifying Saipan Air that it would not deliver two 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft for Saipan Air's program. Saipan Air was unable to sue Swift Air directly because of the bankruptcy filing. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

HOUSE

From Page 1

fast is their trying to secure the speakership. It may come to the last day or inauguration day. If it comes down to inauguration day, then there will be a speaker, a new speaker," he said.

Demapan said he continues to communicate with returning and incoming members, telling them that he still wishes to be speaker if they want him to lead them.

"Talks are still ongoing. Perhaps I can simply say that we're closer in resolving this issue. Personally, I would like to settle this issue before we get to inauguration. We're all hoping for a smooth inauguration so our families and friends can come and witness the organization of the House. I hope we don't go that far as it's a momentous day for all of us. I've been communicating with members, members from both [camps]. Again, talks are still ongoing and perhaps before the inauguration we would be able to settle the issue. If not, we just have to deal with it on the inauguration day."

Deleon Guerrero said it would be to the advantage of

the House to already select a speaker before Monday's inauguration of the Legislature.

"If not, it will have to be worked out. We cannot conduct our business without a speaker. We can with just a speaker pro tem but there will be no leadership and a leadership is needed so that committee chairmen can be appointed, so that work can be done, so we can introduce bills and refer bills to committees. That's the importance of having a leadership."

"There will be some concessions, if not on inauguration day probably shortly after. I don't rule out the possibility of something happening before. It could still happen and it happened. We'll see. I have not been approached. I don't know about the other two are approaching each other," added Deleon Guerrero.

He said he already talked to Demapan and Tebuteb about the possibility of him serving as speaker pro tem and Demapan acting as floor pro tem for the House inauguration.

"I did talk to the two gentlemen—House floor leader Rafael Demapan and SNILD chair Ramon Tebuteb—and asked them if they have any problems of me becoming speaker pro tem for

inauguration. I also asked that the floor leader pro tem for inauguration as well so we can have some order during inauguration and not have some kind of [power] struggle on that day. I asked the members also during the last session. We have a memo we want the Legislative Bureau director to circulate. Members can sign it if they agree to have me as speaker pro tem and the floor leader as the floor leader pro tem for inauguration day. We need 11 signatures I haven't seen it and I haven't signed in. The LB would also be giving the memo to incoming members as well."

If elected speaker, Demapan said he will make sure that the House would work closely with the Senate and the incoming administration of governor-elect Eloy S. Inos and lieutenant governor-elect Ralph DLG Torres.

"I still hope and I ask my colleagues to believe in me as their next speaker and as speaker I will do my very best to make sure we work closely with the Senate and with the administration to make sure that we do have legislation that works for our Commonwealth and especially for our people."

He also said the House is best

suited if there's a super majority where everyone is allied.

"We shouldn't have a minority at all and have a super majority so we'll have an easier...a better direction in addressing issues."

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, who is chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, declined to comment.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that Tebuteb can expect to garner the support of nine independents, among them Reps. Edmund Villagomez, Ralph N. Yumul, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman Benavente, Larry Deleon Guerrero, and incoming representatives Edwin Propst, Vinson Sablan, and Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao.

Deleon Guerrero, meanwhile, is said to be counting on the votes of Rep. Anthony P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and freshmen lawmakers Edwin Aldan of Tinian and Francis Taimanao of Saipan.

Demapan can count on the seven NMI Republican Party lawmakers elected to the 19th House: Felicidad Ogunoro, John Paul P. Sablan, George Camacho, and newcomers Angel Demapan, Joseph "Lee-pan" T. Guerrero, and Glenn L. Maratita.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Birthday greetings go out to Frederico M. Pua, who is celebrating his birthday today. With lots of love and blessings.

DIALYSIS

From Page 1

year but the survey team found one standard-level deficiency—the lack of a renal dietitian that is registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration. The matter has already been corrected by CHCC.

In an email to Muna, CMS Division of Survey and Certification nurse consultant Ed Q. Japinta said that the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center's plan of correction has been accepted.

"The plan of correction following the revisit survey conducted on Sept. 15, 2014, was accepted and therefore, CHC ESRD dialysis center is back in compliance," Japinta said.

Muna submitted the dialysis center's plan of correction on

Nov. 24, 2014, to CMS associate regional administrator Steven Chickering, highlighting the hospital's corrective measures for the dialysis center.

CHC found a dietitian who will be ready for employment this month.

According to Chickering's last letter to CHCC, an interview with the medical director during their survey on Sept. 15 revealed that the facility did not have a registered dietitian on staff. At the time, the medical director told CMS that they were actively looking for one.

In an earlier interview with Muna, she said that they have already addressed it and should have a dietitian soon.

CHCC is now awaiting its hospital's corrective plans to be approved before the hospital receives an update on its recertification this April.

DOOR

From Page 2

elections.

The Senate president also gave kudos to the community for voting for him and Gov. Eloy S. Inos in the 2014 general elections and the subsequent runoff elections.

"Throughout the election it was never easy, as you all well know. We encountered a lot of criticism both personal and po-

litical issues."

Torres said he looks forward to working with Inos and forging a better future for the people of the Commonwealth.

"It's a different party. But I know his heart and my heart are the same. Both of us want to help the people of the CNMI."

Before rejoining the NMI Republican Party last year, Inos was the head of the Covenant Party, which merged with the GOP when Inos and Torres agreed to run together.

NMC

From Page 3

In the midst of a lack of a program, he said NMC still has programs with "apprenticeship components" like their Community Development Institute that has programs for workforce development and certificate training, for example.

To further their efforts in workforce development, he said, the college works closely with the CNMI Department of Labor in identifying workforce

needs and how the college can address this.

An NMC working document based on updated statistics from Labor shows for example the number of non-U.S. workers in the positions of accountant or engineer in the CNMI.

According to Attao, the college uses the document to see what they offer to meet these needs, and if they can't—as they are only a community college—they point to partners such as state universities or programs that could assist in these areas.

Man resentenced to 2 yrs. in prison for 'ice' possession

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho resentenced yesterday to two years in prison Fu Zhu Lin, a scooter operator that he earlier slapped with the full maximum sentence of five years in prison for possession of less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice" at a sobriety checkpoint.

Camacho ordered Lin, a Chinese national, to serve the two years in prison day to day, without the possibility of parole. Lin was given credit for time served. He was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

Camacho said the presentence investigation reports prepared by the Office of the Adult Probation were informative but there was nothing in them that he did not already take into account at Lin's initial sentencing. Camacho said he was prepared to impose the same sentence of five years in prison but the government framed its argument at the resentencing in a different way.

The judge noted that at the first sentencing hearing, the then-assistant attorney general simply framed the issue that Lin had been arrested and that the previous 2010 case was dismissed.

The 2010 case that the prosecution dismissed charged Lin with trafficking and possession of "ice" and resisting arrest.

Camacho said that assistant attorney general Shannon Foley was much more forthcoming with the court at the second sentencing hearing (yesterday and Wednesday).

Camacho said Foley stated

that the reason Lin's first arrest in connection with the 2010 case was dismissed was due to a mistaken identity.

The judge said Lin's first case in 2010 highlights the power of the prosecutor to wreak havoc with a person's life.

Camacho said that Lin was a productive employee prior to his first arrest in 2010.

"Defendant was wrongly arrested on mistaken identity and languished at the Department of Corrections causing him to lose his job," he said.

By the time the prosecutor realized the mistake and dismissed the case, it was too late for Lin as his employment status had already been destroyed, Camacho said.

"While the prosecutors went about 'practicing being lawyers' [and] going about their merry way, this defendant had to try to make a living doing odd jobs," he said.

"Whether the defendant eventual use of drugs and arrest in this 2011 case a direct cause of the Prosecutor's Office wrongly charging him back in 2010, we will probably never really know," the judge said.

Camacho said it just seems that something is unfair about the situation.

From 2002 to 2010, Lin worked at several garment factories and restaurants. His last employment was at the Tinian Dynasty before his first arrest in 2010.

Camacho said Lin should be punished for his crime in the 2011 case and that there is absolutely no question about that. But the court, he said, also takes into account the destruction of Lin's life and employ-

ment, which was initiated by the wrong actions of the prosecutors back in 2010.

At the resentencing, Foley recommended a sentence of four years with a \$2,000 fine.

Assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, counsel for Lin, recommended a sentence of 18 months with a fine of \$2,000.

Camacho said he is not persuaded by the defendant's argument that he should be given a lenient sentence because he only used drugs a few times.

"As the saying goes, even the smallest root leads to the tree, so too that every illegal drug user contributes to the continuation of illegal drug trafficking," he said.

In a bench trial in March 2013, Camacho found Lin

guilty of illegal possession of controlled substance.

A day after the trial, Camacho sentenced Lin to five years in prison.

Lin appealed, asking the CNMI Supreme Court to reverse his conviction.

In June 2014, the high court affirmed Lin's conviction but vacated the five-year sentence and returned the case to the Superior Court for resentencing. The high court agreed with Lin that trial courts must provide an adequate explanation before declining to order a presentence investigation report.

According to court records, police officers seized a small baggie containing "ice" from Lin's companion, Mei Ying Qi,

after the officers saw Lin passing the item to Qi at a sobriety checkpoint in Chalan Piao on Dec. 24, 2011.

Lin was driving a scooter with Qi as his passenger when they were randomly waved into the sobriety checkpoint by an officer.

Upon entering the checkpoint, Lin encountered another officer, who found an expired 2005 registration sticker on the license plate of Lin's scooter.

An officer then did a pat-

down search of Lin and noticed him passing an item to Qi, who immediately concealed the item in her blouse. The officer retrieved the item, which later tested positive for "ice."

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US govt arranges parole for woman suing CBP officers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In order to enter the CNMI for depositions, the U.S. government has arranged a supervised parole for Yu Min Zhao, a Chinese teacher who is suing eight U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

Assistant U.S. attorney Jessica F. Cruz has informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that, as counsel for CBP officer Dennis Jacobs, she secured approval from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Zhao and her husband, Jian Li, to enter the Commonwealth via supervised parole.

Cruz and Zhao's attorney, Samuel I. Mok, have agreed that Mok will supervise the couple.

Cruz said an official parole will shortly be issued to Zhao and Li.

Cruz said the supervised parole will allow Zhao and Li to enter Saipan on Jan. 12, 2015, and requires them to depart on Jan. 16, 2015.

The parties agreed that Li's deposition will be done on Jan. 14, 2015. Zhao's deposition will be held the following day.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

Cruz said the U.S. government has agreed to make the arrangements for and cover the costs of Li's roundtrip airfare and lodging on Saipan. Li, however, is responsible for all other travel costs he incurs.

The prosecutor said Zhao is responsible for her own costs,

including travel and lodging.

Mok has agreed to assume responsibility for the couple for the duration of their stay on Saipan. Mok has agreed to meet the couple at the airport, supervise them, ensure that they arrive at their depositions on time, and that they depart the island on Jan. 16, 2015.

Mok has also agreed to notify the court immediately if Zhao or Li fails to appear at their deposition, is no longer in his custody, or does depart the island on Jan. 16.

The parties have agreed to request the court to issue an order appointing Mok as the custodian for the couple from Jan. 12 to 16, 2015. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted the

parties' request.

Manglona also approved the parties' other requests for Mok to ensure that the couple will arrive at their scheduled depositions on time and will ensure that they depart the island on Jan. 16.

Zhao is suing Jacobs and seven other unnamed CBP officers for allegedly denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant. She claims she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

Zhao alleged that her husband, Li, was questioned first that same day by a CBP officer and was admitted under the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program without incident.

Mok stated in the complaint

that Zhao, a school teacher in China, wanted to visit Saipan with her husband, Li, as a tourist for one week of vacation.

Mok said the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013, at 3:10am, soon after the couple arrived at the Francisco C. Ada International Airport from Beijing via a China Eastern Airlines charter flight.

Hawaii senator donates 10 pallets of books to JKPL

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thanks to the help of Hawaii state Sen. Glenn Wakai through REPAC, 10 pallets of books have been donated to the NMI's state library, Joeten Kiyu Public Library.

REPAC is a Hawaii non-profit organization that sends educational and medical supplies to Micronesia.

According to JKPL executive director John Gonzales, he will be enlisting a commercial mover to transport the books to JKPL and have the staff properly view what can be circulated to the public and what can be packed up and donated to key community partners, both locally and regionally.

During a photo briefing of hospital beds at the hospital's storeroom in Lower Base, *Saipan Tribune* found more than 10 boxes of books on each pallet.

Gonzales said that JKPL is eternally grateful to REPAC and their good friend, Wakai.

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Jan. 12, 14 and 15, from 1:30pm to 7:30pm. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated.

"Because even though he left Saipan as a former resident, he continues to demonstrate admiration for our people and the islands he once called home," Gonzales said.

According to Gonzales, this was not the first contribution from the organization.

"Two years ago through REPAC, JKPL became the clearinghouse for access to resources and assets for optimum public use," he said.

During that time, JKPL donated surplus shelves and books to their local partners that included Dandan Elementary School, Hopwood Junior High School, and Marianas High School.

"Now we are looking forward to sharing the latest contributions with local partners in order to meet their informational and recreational needs, which is in line with JKPL's mission and vision," Gonzales said.

Wakai, through REPAC, also donated hospital beds and equipment this week to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. (PR)



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USDA Rural Dev't invests nearly \$47M in Western Pacific in FY 2014

TIYAN, Guam—For fiscal year 2014, USDA Rural Development invested nearly \$47 million in various projects throughout the Western Pacific. These funds were targeted toward first-time home ownership, home repair/rehabilitation, community facilities, business assistance and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Western Pacific includes Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Rural Development's investment include \$26.8 million in community facilities; over \$17.6 million in housing funds that helped to assist 102 very-low to moderate-income families become first-time homeowners; \$837,429 in loans and grants to assist 105 very-low income families with essential home repairs and renovations; over \$688,320 in support of businesses and economic development, and a \$1.0 million in a grant for a high energy cost area.

"These funds demonstrate the Obama Administration's unyielding efforts to improve the quality of life for rural residents by ensuring that rural communities benefit from quality housing and public facilities" stated Chris Kanazawa, State Director for Hawaii, American Samoa and the Western Pacific. "USDA is com-



Students of Lukop Elementary School in Pohnpei express their appreciation for the school's new perimeter/security fence, which was built using a \$41,250 grant from the USDA.

mitted to helping the Western Pacific access the resources needed to implement strategies that will invigorate the economy, reduce poverty and enhance the quality of life in the Western Pacific for years to come."

These investments were made available through RD's single family housing direct and guaranteed loan programs; the RH 504 home repair and rehabilitation loan and grant program; Community Programs;

the Business & Industry (B&I) Guaranteed loan program; the Rural Energy for America Program; and other grant programs including the Rural Business Enterprise Grant; Value-Added Producer Grant; and the High Energy Cost Grant.

"Through its portfolio, Rural Development works with valued island partners to address the urgent needs of local residents in rural communities," stated Gary Bloom, Area III Di-

rector for the Federated States of Micronesia.

In Pohnpei, USDA awarded a \$41,250 grant to Lukop Elementary School, which was leveraged with a grant from the Australia Agency for International Development, to construct a perimeter/security fence for the school.

"This new perimeter security fencing safeguards valuable village assets including the entire grounds of Lukop Elementary School, the Early Childhood

Education Center, the Village Medical Dispensary, and the Local Community Center. This investment safeguards critical community assets and ensures the delivery of basic community services while raising the standard of living for the people of Lukop," stated Bloom.

"Rural Development will continue that mission for the Western Pacific in [fiscal year] 2015—creating economic opportunity and improving the

quality of life for rural residents—one homeowner, one small business, one rural community at a time," stated Joseph Diego, Area II Director for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

USDA, through its Rural Development mission area, administers and manages housing, business and community infrastructure programs through a national network of state and local offices. Rural Development has an active portfolio of more than \$172 billion in loans and loan guarantees. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities. USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. **(USDA)**

Teresa Camacho is Bank of Guam's newest VP

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam board of directors, management and staff announced yesterday the promotion of Teresa Catahay Camacho to vice president/compliance manager—Compliance Department.

Camacho graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam in 2000 and holds a degree



Camacho

in accounting with a minor in paralegal studies from the University of Guam. She has completed the American Banking Association's National Compliance and Intermediate Compliance Schools, as well as the Sheshunoff Regulatory Compliance Certification Program. She earned her Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager designation in November 2011.

Camacho joined the Bank of Guam in 2007 following her employment with the U.S. Attorney's office, and completed the bank's management training program a year later. She joined the Compliance Department in 2008, and became a compliance officer before being promoted in 2013 to be the assistant compliance manager. **(BOG)**

Funds available for Home Repair Loan and Grant Program

TIYAN, Guam—Funding is available for USDA Rural Development's Home Repair Loan and Grant Program.

The Area II Office in Guam serves Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The Area III Office in Pohnpei serves Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap.

To qualify for the program, applicants must own and occupy the home and the total household income cannot exceed the "very low" income guidelines established for the Western Pacific and household size. This

program may be used to remove health and safety hazards such as repairing roofs, heating and air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, water/sewer systems, windows, insulation, or to make a home handicap accessible. It can also be used to improve or modernize a home.

All loans are at a fixed 1 percent interest rate for up to 20 years. This low interest rate enables the borrower to have a reasonable monthly payment that they can afford even with their very low income. For example, a \$5,000 loan at 1 percent interest for 20 years would have a monthly payment of \$23 per

month. There is no penalty for early payment if the borrower wishes to pay extra or pay off early.

To qualify for a grant, homeowners must be age 62 or older. Grant funding is limited and many times repairs will be funded with a combination of a loan and grant. Those interested in the program are encouraged to contact the USDA Rural Development office for specifics on all the eligibility criteria.

• For more information, visit the USDA Rural Development's website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hi> or contact Joe Diego at the Area II Office, 770

East Sunset Blvd., Suite 280, Tiyan, Guam 96913; by phone at (671) 300-8560, or by e-mail at joseph.diego@pb.usda.gov.

• For Area III, you may contact Gary Bloom in Pohnpei, Jems Building, P.O. Box 396, Pohnpei, FM 96941; or via phone at (691) 320-2581, or e-mail at gary.bloom@pb.usda.gov.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastruc-

ture have empowered rural America to continue leading the way—strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities.

USDA's investments in rural communities support the rural way of life that stands as the backbone of our American values. President Obama and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack are committed to a smarter use of federal resources to foster sustainable economic prosperity and ensure the government is a strong partner for businesses, entrepreneurs and working families in rural communities. **(USDA)**

JKPL sets events, activities for January

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be hosting numerous events this month and is inviting the public to join in on these activities.

One such event includes a visiting South Korean professor of music and professional double bass player, Changwoo Sohn, who will be performing live at

JKPL this Saturday at 10:30am in the Children's Room.

"He will perform again on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 3:30pm in front of the Pacific Collection and will also be giving a concert at the Multi-Purpose Center at a later date," said JKPL's technical service librarian Rosalyn Ajoste.

One other activity that community members may enjoy is a class on "Resources for Children

and Teenagers in American Sign Language" that will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, at JKPL. The program will be presented by Patrick Lynch of the Jehovah's Witnesses and will share video presentations. Those wanting to attend and reserve a seat on Jan. 17 may email Lynch at glyn35@gmail.com.

JKPL will also be hosting a book signing and book selling by

local dentist and author Nelson Krum on Jan. 21. Krum's new book, *Disaster at Bushehr*, will be sold on Jan. 21 from 1pm to 3pm.

"He writes under the pen name Reginald Nelson. He will also give a short presentation about his inspiration for the novel, as well as the process of writing and publishing in general," Ajoste said.

JKPL will also be resuming its adult basic education classes from Tuesday to Friday, from

4pm to 6pm.

Ajoste is also inviting community members to look at their book competition featuring entries from K-5 students on display at the library, including the Aeronautical Dolphins exhibit containing pictures, actual trophies, banners and an endorsement from President Barack Obama of the six member who won in 2013.

For more information visit the library in Susupe or call 235-7315.

Local students make honor roll

Keanah G. Deleon Guerrero, of Saipan, a freshman pursuing University Exploratory Studies; Amanda Maria W. Santos of Saipan, a junior taking up Fisheries and Wildlife Science; and

Marquina M. Hofschneider of Tinian, a sophomore taking up Political Science have all made it to the Scholastic Honor Roll for the fall term at the Oregon State University by garnering

grades of 3.5 or better. A total of 861 students earned straight-A (4.0). Another 3,598 earned a B-plus (3.5) or better to make the listing. To be on the Honor Roll, students must carry at least

12 graded hours of course work.

Celine Orsini, another Saipan native, received academic honors from Arizona State University by making the University's Dean's List for the spring 2014 semester. Undergraduate students who earn 12 or more

graded semester hours during a semester in residence at ASU with a GPA of 3.50 or higher are eligible for the Dean's List. A notation regarding Dean's List achievement appears on the unofficial transcript. **(Saipan Tribune)**

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Capitol Hill, Saipan

6:00 PM

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Paris terrorists aimed at freedom of expression, we must defend it



MCT

People hold up tributes to the victims of the Charlie Hebdo shooting on Jan. 7, 2015 during a 1-minute silence in Bordeaux, France, in remembrance of those killed and wounded in the deadly attack in Paris on Wednesday.

The primary victims of the terrorist outrage in Paris on Wednesday are the 12 people who were shot dead and several others who were wounded. This would be an unspeakable atrocity regardless of the motives that drove masked gunmen to attack the offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*.

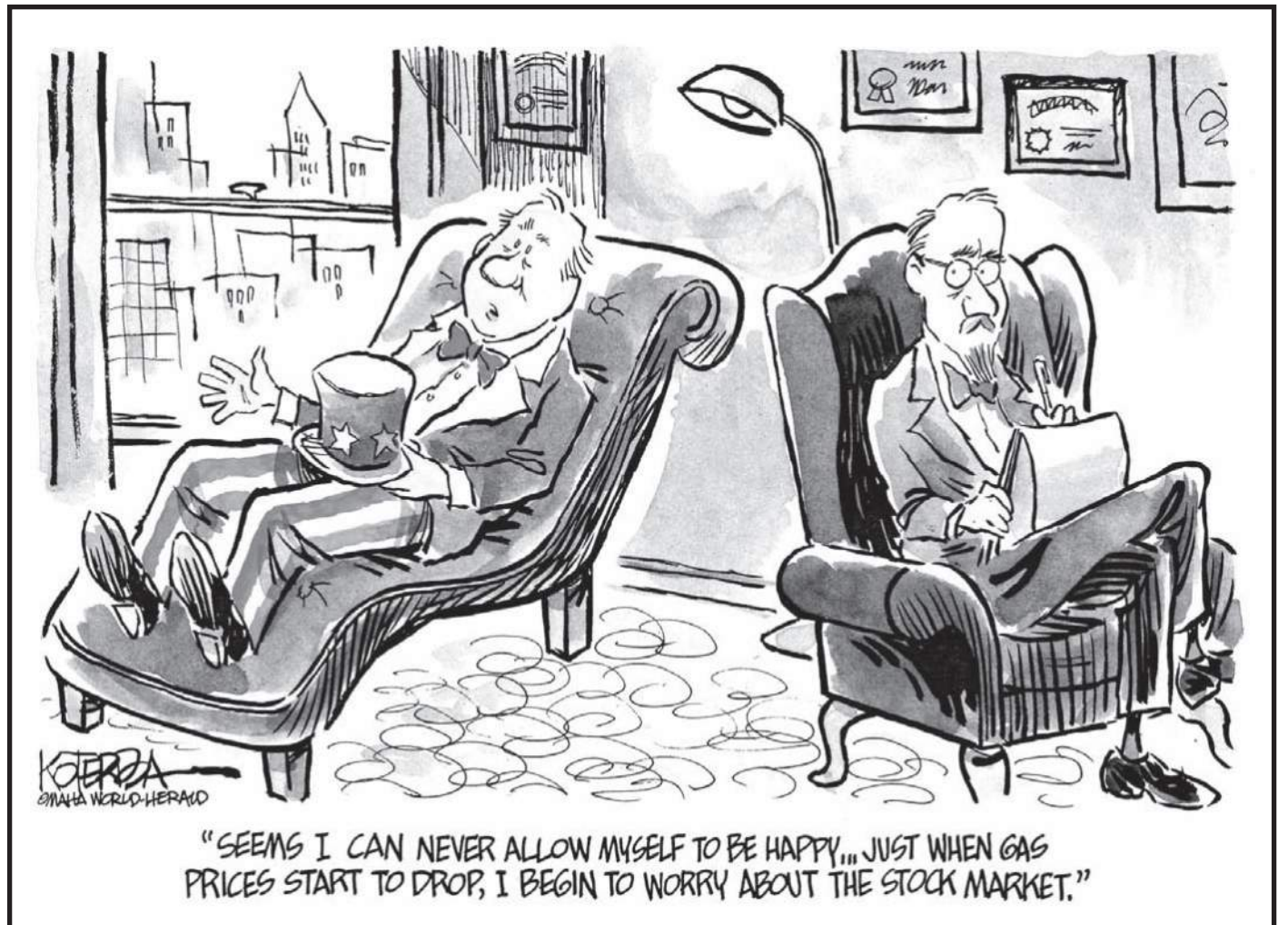
But the terrorists, who reportedly said they were avenging the prophet Muhammad, were aiming not only at individuals but at an idea: that freedom of expression includes the right to criticize and, yes, ridicule the cherished beliefs of others. *Charlie Hebdo* certainly had done that in publishing cartoons lampooning Muhammad and mocking Islam.

President Obama alluded to this when he praised France's commitment to "universal values." German Chancellor Angela Merkel was more explicit, describing the carnage as an attack on "freedom of expression—a key component of our free democratic culture."

It's tempting to see this tragedy as an example of the failure of some Muslims to adapt to Western notions of robust free speech, and there is some truth in that observation: Scurrilous depictions of Jesus Christ or the pope are far less likely to provoke violence than a violation of the taboo that Muhammad may not be lampooned (or even depicted). It's also the case that Muslim nations have been in the forefront of the campaign to have the United Nations condemn "defamation of religion."

Yet the impulse to punish or censor sacrilegious speech isn't unique to Muslims. In the past, Christians also have used the law

See PARIS on Next Page



Why predictions of lethal pandemics should be ignored

Prophets of doom have been telling us for decades that a deadly new pandemic—of bird flu, of SARS or MERS coronavirus, and now of Ebola—is on its way. Why are we still listening?

If you look back at the furor raised at many distinguished publications—*Nature*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*—back in, say, 2005, about a potential bird flu (H5N1) pandemic, you wonder what planet they were on. *Nature* ran a special section titled—"Avian flu: Are we ready?"—that began, ominously, with the words "Trouble is brewing in the East" and went on to present a mock aftermath report detailing catastrophic civil breakdown.

Robert Webster, a famous influenza virologist, told ABC News in 2006 that "society just can't accept the idea that 50 percent of the population could die. And I think we have to face that possibility." Public health expert Michael T. Osterholm of the University of Minnesota, at a meeting in Washington of scientists brought together by the Institute of Medicine, warned in 2005 that a post-pandemic commission, like the post-9/11 commission, could hold "many scientists ... accountable to that commission for what we did or didn't do to prevent a pandemic." He also predicted that we could be facing "three years of a given hell" as the world struggled to right itself after the deadly pandemic. And Laurie Garrett, author of what must be the urtext for pandemic predictions, her 1994 book "The Coming Plague," intoned in *Foreign Affairs* that "in short, doom may loom." Although she followed that with, "But note the may," the article went on to paint a terrifying picture of the avian flu threat nonetheless.

And such hysteria still goes on: Whether it's over the MERS coronavirus, a whole alphabet of chicken flu viruses, a real but not very deadly influenza pandemic in 2009, or a kerfuffle like the one in 2012 over a scientist-crafted ferret flu that also was supposed to be a pandemic threat. Along the way, virologist Nathan Wolfe published "The Viral Storm: the Dawn of a New Pandemic Age," and David Quammen warned in his gripping "Spillover" that some new animal plague could arise from the jungle and sweep across the world.

And now there's Ebola. Osterholm, in a widely read op-ed in the *New York Times* in September, wrote about the possibility that scientists were afraid to mention publicly the danger they discuss privately: that Ebola "could mutate to become transmissible through the air." "The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has the potential to alter history as much as any plague has ever done," he wrote. And Garrett wrote in *Foreign Policy*, "Attention, World: You just don't get it." She went on to say, "Wake up, fools," because we should be more frightened of a potential scenario like the one in the movie "Contagion," in which a lethal, fictitious pandemic scours the

By WENDY ORENT
Los Angeles Times

Wendy Orent is the author of *Plague: The Mysterious Past and Terrifying Future of the World's Most Dangerous Disease* and *Ticked: The Battle Over Lyme Disease in the South*. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



world, nearly destroying civilization.

But there were fewer takers this time. Osterholm's claims about Ebola going airborne were discounted by serious scientists, and Garrett seemingly retracted her earlier hysteria about Ebola by claiming that, after all, evolution made such spread unlikely.

The scientific world has changed since 2005. Now, most scientists understand that there are significant physical and evolutionary barriers to a blood- and fluid-borne virus developing airborne transmission, as Garrett has acknowledged. Though Ebola virus has been detected in human alveolar cells, as Vincent Racaniello, virologist at Columbia University, explained to me, that doesn't mean it can replicate in the airways enough to allow transmission. "Maybe ... the virus can get in, but can't get out. Like a roach motel," wrote Racaniello in an email.

H5N1, we understand now, never went airborne because it attached only to cell receptors located deep in human lungs, and could not, therefore, be coughed or sneezed out. SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, caused local outbreaks after multiple introductions via air travel but spread only sluggishly and mostly in hospitals. Breaking its chains of transmission ended the outbreak globally. There probably will always be significant barriers preventing the easy adaptation of an animal disease to the human species. Furthermore, Racaniello insists that there are no recorded instances of viruses that have adapted to humans, changing the way they are spread.

So we need to stop listening to the doomsayers, and we need to do it now. Predictions of lethal pandemics have—since the swine flu fiasco of 1976, when President Ford vowed to vaccinate "every man, woman and child in the United States"—always been wrong. Fear-mongering wastes our time and our emotions and diverts resources from where they should be directed—in the case of Ebola, to the ongoing tragedy in West Africa. Americans have all but forgotten about Ebola now, because most people realize it isn't coming to a school or a shopping mall near you. But Sierra Leoneans and Liberians go on dying.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reading Chinese

Before the sun set on December, I ran into a retail store manager and two luxury car salesmen who were shopping for their first books on Mandarin Chinese. I'm sure these aren't the only cases where studying the language is a new year's resolution for 2015.

Know what I think? I think that no matter what year it is, this topic isn't going to go away. So I'll offer yet another worm's-eye-view of my experience with the gig. Today I'll note four resources that I found useful for studying written vocabulary in Mandarin. Of course, written vocabulary is just one slice of the linguistic pizza, but that's what's on the menu today.

And as for who is serving it, well, I am just a so-so student of Chinese. I punted my fourth semester before the first class because my first look at the grammar-intensive textbook gave me nausea, insomnia, acid-reflux, and a headache all at the same time, and I'm not entirely ruling out incontinence, either. It's been a haphazard path of delinquent-style self-study ever since. So, while I can share my experiences, I am not qualified to give any advice. If I ever gave anyone advice in Chinese, they should probably do the opposite.

Anyway, of these four resources, one is free on the Web. Three are inexpensive books at under \$20 each if you shop around. I'm just going to hit some highlights so I can squeeze everything in here.

Let's start at the free end of the spectrum. Professor Jun Da of Middle Tennessee State University (in Murfreesboro, Tenn.) has compiled lists of the most commonly used Chinese characters. They're posted on the Web. You can find the page via this URL: lingua.mtsu.edu.

There are, of course, other lists out there, and even Professor Da has more than one list. Professor Da's "Character frequency list of Modern Chinese" (that's how it's listed on the website) is what I downloaded. I make various study sheets from this information. It's

a gold mine.

The characters are listed in descending order of frequency. This enables the student to pick the lowest-hanging fruit first.

Professor Da's information also provides succinct definitions for each character. This enables the reader to look up the character in more detailed resources. That's where the fun starts. And now we come to the three books I want to mention.

One book focuses entirely on the most common 500 characters. As for the title, we run into a vast ocean of words here, so let's dive in:

The old edition of this book, which is what I have, is called the *Chinese-English Dictionary of the 500 Most Frequently Used Words: A Study Guide to Mandarin Chinese*. The author is Yong Ho. The updated version of the book (same author) is titled *Concise Chinese-English Usage Dictionary: A Study Reference to the 500 Most Essential Mandarin Characters*.

Got that? Good. Anyway, I'll note that the term "dictionary" doesn't do the book justice. It's more than a mere dictionary. It is a rich source of information that shows how the common characters snap together, Lego-style, to make various words. The other books I'm mentioning also do that, but this fleshes the words out a bit more and has sample sentences.

Moving up in the character count, I'll mention a book called *Learning Chinese Characters*, by Alison Matthews and Laurence Matthews. It covers 800 common characters and 1,033 words derived from them.

Incidentally, those particular characters came from what is now an old version of a standardized test of Chinese (called the "HSK" which are Mandarin's phonetic initials for Chinese Level Test). But even though the test changed a few years ago, the language hasn't, and the book remains, for me at least, highly useful. It dissects the characters in great detail and explains them better than any other

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



book I've seen.

The book also incorporates quirky little fairy tales to facilitate memorization, but I haven't paid much attention to this feature so I can't say anything about it.

Going beyond the most basic of basics, I will mention a book that's deeper in scale. This is called *Reading and Writing Chinese: Third Edition*. It was written by William McNaughton and revised by Jiageng Fan. It covers 2,633 characters and over 5,000 related words, and, incidentally, this material dovetails with what's on the new version of the HSK.

The only reason I mention the HSK is that the term is widely used in this realm, so we might as well know what it refers to.

Overall, whether it's a symptom of my slow progress, the nature of the language, or maybe a combination of both things, I have found that I keep coming back to the basics. These four resources help me do just that, and by combining their various strengths, I've gotten a lot of use from them.

Beyond tending the basics, my only resolution on this note is not to have any resolutions, or any expectations, or any goals. Hey, I've finally found a resolution that I can keep!

70th Anniversary after WWII

It's an interesting year marking the 70th anniversary since the end of World War II and the 36th year of so-called self-government. We've come a long way, haven't we, NMI?

The seeming seesaw in political evolution or devolution is itself an interesting journey of humiliating consistency in inconsistency. In the late '50s and early '60s, we wanted reintegration with Guam because of its \$1-an-hour minimum wage. We were salivating, what with ours being \$.16 an hour. We were soundly shot down!

Our aspiration was focused strictly on the almighty dollar. It wasn't cultural, nor do we care about its source. Neither is it based on the principles upon which our country was founded 236 years ago. It was the almighty dollar from A-Z!

Evidently, as of the first of the year, 21 states have raised the minimum wage up to \$9.15 an hour. Guam did the same by a dollar or \$8.25 an hour. Ours remains at \$6.05. Nationwide the average price for gasoline has fallen to \$2.41 per gallon. The NMI is stuck in the swamp of economic depression and it can't afford either adjustment.

We had no clue that support for self-government begins with "we the people." Remember when first levied a 1 percent income tax in the late '60s we burned the chambers of the Congress of Micronesia? Obviously, we weren't searching for self-government. Perhaps we've seen one too many Christmas drops, strengthening the cargo cult mentality. Now we've been showered with 10 silvers!

The cost of healthcare would continue to spiral upwards. The

millions of dollars spent on medical referral should be invested here to improve healthcare delivery at CHC beyond ambulatory level. It makes sense and the time to begin is now!

If we're exempt from Obamacare, does it mean we're also exempt from paying the backbreaking deductible of \$500 to \$1,000 out-of-pocket expense? Can someone clarify this issue ASAP?

We had a healthy economic boom in the mid-'80s that crashed and disintegrated when the feds took over control of immigration. Then came the exodus of major Japanese investments and the shutter of the \$2.1-billion apparel industry. Nothing by way of anchor investment has come since then. The talk of economic boom from casino is but a grand pipe dream. Or is it more like doom?

Tourism, while it inches upwards in suspect recovery, remains protracted and equally fickle. Our progress is analogous to a candle in the wind easily snuffed by heavy headwinds.

Exploratory efforts are on the way to revive the 902 talks with the federal government. It's a good move, at least in looking forward to rebuilding the bridge of hope on investments.

The cesspool in our backyard is overflowing. The tectonic plates of fiscal crisis have consistently and persistently rumbled 24/7. Wish we could bifurcate it, you know, pretend it isn't a problem or ignore it altogether in hopes it resolves itself. Nah! Either we clean it up and move on or sleepwalk in perpetuity to our own detriment. Hope we're up to the task lest we'd see a lot of very unhappy campers.

topic is more speech, not legal reprisals and certainly not violence or vengeance.

Freedom of expression isn't just a peculiarity of European and American culture. It is enshrined in the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which says: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." One way to honor the victims of Wednesday's massacre is to defend that principle, and not just in Western countries.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Role of CHCH board

The continuing debate on whether the CHCC board should be a "governing" body or limited to a "ceremonial" role isn't so difficult to resolve. I need not have a master's degree in health to understand that CHC has tons of significant clinical and administrative issues it needs to resolve with vision and leadership. It's all common sense!

It should be understood that every board and commission here carries out fiduciary duties fostering accountability in the implementation of policy decisions. The CEO handles implementation of policy and accounts for his/her actions by reporting intermittently to the board. This itself is a measurement of whether missions have been accomplished, failed, or in progress. It forces transparency. Why would some revolt against transparency? Isn't taxpayers' money to attain decent healthcare delivery at issue here? So why spout self-serving diatribes that misses the point altogether?

When it comes to CHC, the issue becomes even more complicated given the myriad of health issues requiring diligent attention and resolution. There are policy issues set by the Joint Commission on Hospital Certification and another by CMS. The board wants to ensure these standards are met forthwith and has no desire micro-managing the hospital. Management is in the hands of the CEO whose performance must be subject to review by the board to ensure efficacy. Aren't we mixing salient issues with personalities?

Transparency is a must where CEOs dispose of duties from behind their desk, not under it. While major strides may have been attained, a lot more needs to be done to make healthcare delivery here reliable, affordable, accountable, and transparent! That isn't asking for much, is it?

PARIS






From Page 10

to punish irreverence, and blasphemy statutes remain on the books in some U.S. states (though they wouldn't survive a 1st Amendment challenge). Even many Americans and Europeans who support free speech in general would draw the line at protection for religiously offensive speech, just as many would make an exception for racist speech.

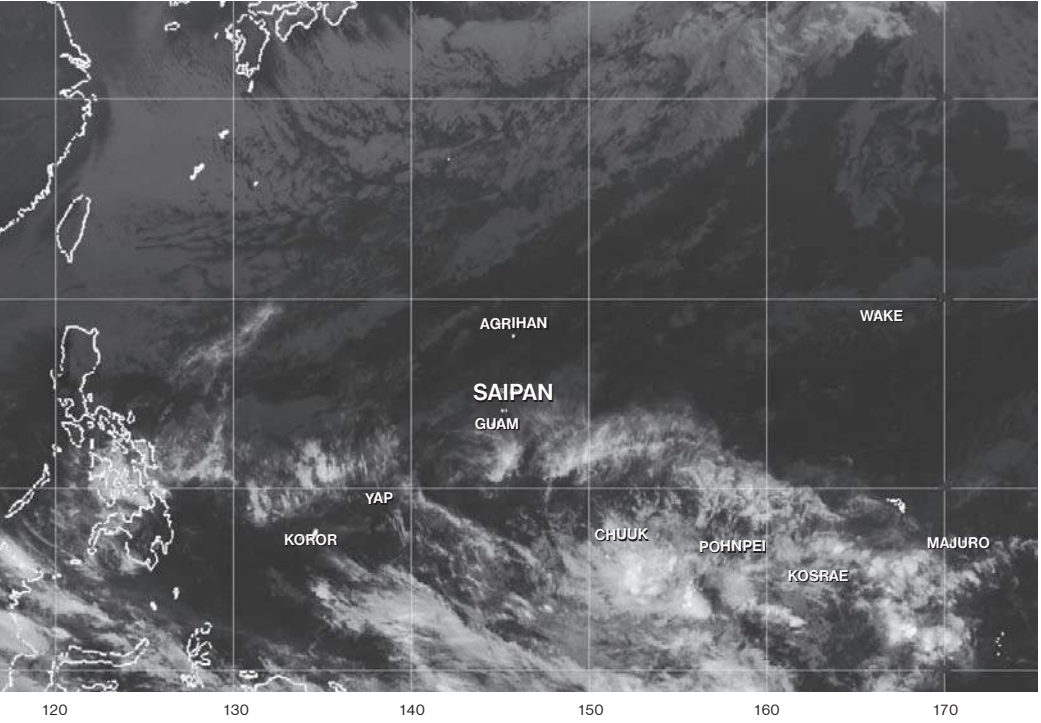
Yet a moment's reflection should dispel the view that freedom of political speech can be separated from speech about race or religion—subjects that are entwined with politics and government all over the world. In a free society, the answer to offensive speech about any

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front north of the Mariana Islands extends southwestward from 25N150E to beyond 17N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A remnant shear line meanders southwestward from west of Saipan at 15N143E to northwest of Koror at 9N133E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 50 miles northwest of the shear line. Farther east a cold front stretches southwestward from 22N180E to just west of Wake Island at 19N166E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 100 miles northwest of this cold front. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 4N130E to a circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 2N158E then turns northeastward to end at 3N167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Koror are within 75 miles of a line from 3N139E to EQ144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae are south of 8N from 150E to 165E. Low-level convergence east of the circulation is generating scattered showers east of Kosrae and south of Majuro between 6N and the equator from 165E to 173E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲ 84	▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 78
Kosrae	Thunderstoms	▲ 83	▼ 80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75	▼ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 46	▼ 20
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66	▼ 55
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79	▼ 66
London	Rain	▲ 53	▼ 45
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72	▼ 52
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 68
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 66	▼ 58
Miami	Showers	▲ 74	▼ 66
New York	Sunny	▲ 25	▼ 19
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 45	▼ 39
Paris	Rain	▲ 50	▼ 46
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48	▼ 28
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59	▼ 45
Salem	Fog	▲ 45	▼ 37
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64	▼ 50
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 39	▼ 20
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 51	▼ 35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 24	▼ 21



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
10:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
4:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
9:39 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	9:23 PM	9:17 AM
Saturday	10:10 PM	9:56 AM
Sunday	10:56 PM	10:34 AM
Monday	11:43 PM	11:12 AM
Tuesday		11:51 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

The world is trying to win Chinese tourists

By PEARL YOUNG
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Pearl Yang is the assistant editor of Island Traveler. She travelled several times to Saipan for story development and interviews for the magazine. During her visit, she was impressed by the stunning views, fresh air and warm-hearted people. "I fell in love with the exotic tropical island immediately," she said. After writing about Saipan and translating articles from local writers for over two years to help Chinese readers understand Saipan and the CNMI, she came up of an idea: why not write something for the islanders

to learn about China, the fastest growing country and the second largest economic entity in the world? After all, a country with fastest growing tourists and a travel destination must somehow create sparks between each other.

Earlier at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit held on Nov. 8-10, 2014, in Beijing, China, U.S. President Barack Obama declared a deal that he said "would improve trade and business ties between the world's two largest economies." Under this deal, both the U.S. and China agree to extend

terms of multiple entry short-term tourist and business visas from one year to 10 years. The deal was put into effect on Nov. 12. After a few days, my friend Sarah shared a photo of her 10-year U.S. visa on Instagram. That day was Dec. 5, only 22 days after.

The U.S. is not the first country that offers the visa deal to attract Chinese tourists. About half year ago in June, Britain announced that it would further simplify visa applications for Chinese tourists and business people, and allow Chinese visitors to use a single application form for processing both UK

and Schengen visa. France, however, took the step even earlier. It announced in January that France would shorten the visa application period to 48 hours from 10 working days for Chinese tourists. Other than visa deals, many countries have also taken further steps by increasing direct flights, hiring Mandarin speaking concierge services and enhancing the country's infrastructure.

Why is the world eager to "lure" Chinese tourists in?

At a forum on China-U.S. tourism cooperation held in Chicago as part of the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Com-

merce and Trade last week, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker said the recent change of visa policy is expected to bring 7.3 million Chinese tourists to the U.S. by 2021, which would likely contribute \$8.5 billion per year to the U.S. economy and support about 440,000 American jobs. She also mentioned that further steps, such as expanding airline capacity and increasing the infrastructure investment, is expected to be done to accompany the policy.

Countries that have taken the step earlier such as Britain have already benefited from it. According to BBC News, the number of Chinese visitors rose by 79.1 percent to 196,000 over

that period, and "they spent £492 million in 2013, up from £184 million in 2010."

As for the CNMI, a region with foresight and has given visa waiver toward Chinese, the result is also cheerful. In fiscal year 2014, "visitors from China surpassed other counties, comprising 36 percent of total visitor arrivals."

But in this intense competition of trying to win Chinese tourists, who can win the most and laugh last will depend on how much efforts that country/region is willing to put in.

Pearl Yang is the assistant editor of Island Traveler. This article is an unsolicited and unpaid contribution by the author.

Obama helped by staying out of the way, but here he comes

For most of his six years in office, President Barack Obama utilized virtually every means a Keynesian imagination can cook up to give us the worst economic recovery since World War II. First came a waddling, often misdirected, utterly confused, obese stimulus that cost as much as the war in Iraq. It seems to have accomplished precious little, maybe less than relatively small sequester budget cuts Obama believed could

be baleful.

But let's give the president credit for something important. It is not something he did but something he did not do. Although he is big buddies with radical environmentalists, showing his kinship with them in stalling an economically beneficial, science-approved XL Keystone pipeline, he did not oppose fracking that also gives them the willies. It is an amazing technology providing energy companies with relatively

easy, inexpensive access to vast quantities of natural gas and oil, thereby increasing world oil supply and boosting our economy.

Obama likely stayed out of the way in part because of the global warming issue. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas seen as increasing warming, and fracking was causing it to go down far more than government programs because the low-emission, inexpensive natural gas that fracking produced

was increasingly replacing high-emission coal. Something else. It was vastly increasing oil supplies and causing prices to tumble. For consumers, it was joy in the pocketbook, something far more likely to lead to helpful spending than short-term stimulus gifts, and for many businesses it meant still perkier profits, the kind of thing that causes investments and more jobs.

Put it all together, add in some other economic pluses, and what we had in the third quarter of 2014 was higher household incomes and a 5 percent economic growth rate causing many economists to predict good times in 2015. It's not all merriment. The price dip makes some worry about lower demand caused by stagnant economies abroad and stocks lately dropped after dramatic gains. But the overall message is that free markets—including energetic energy companies so often lambasted by Obama as somehow the enemy—are the best economic friends we have, certainly not excessive regulation and the Big-Government-Knows-Best thesis.

To be sure, there are still those saying the Obama stimulus saved us from a second Great

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What's up with the \$1.50?

To the *Saipan Tribune*: I thought you and your distribution staff might be interested in knowing that the *Saipan Tribune* now costs \$1.50 over the counter on Tinian. That is double the purchase price on Saipan. When I asked why the paper had increased two times the price on the cover the sales clerk guessed, "Maybe freight cost." I have read in many different sources that gas/fuel costs were at their lowest price per barrel since 2009. One would think that might be reflected to some

small degree in lowering freight costs if that indeed is the reason for the increase. Instead, Tinian now pays twice the price. What's up with that?

As a lifelong educator and supporter of reading and learning through newspapers I guess I need not say how I feel with and for those who purchase newspapers on a regular basis. I give my daily copies of your newspaper to the Tinian Jr. High School's Social Studies teacher for her students. I think the *Saipan Tribune* is a far bet-

ter paper than its competition on Saipan. I'll keep buying it since the print version carries more news, etc., than the one online. I do enjoy the archived articles that are available online when I want to reread something. The only supplemental reading material I requested for my English classes last year was a subscription to the *Saipan Tribune*. Keep up the good work informing CNMI citizens of global, national, and local news. The *Saipan Tribune* and all newspapers for that matter are vital components of free speech.

Joseph "Pepe Batbon" Connolly

San Jose Village, Tinian

International Buffet



ISLA CAFE

Every Mondays to Sunday
6:00pm to 9:30pm
20% local discount
Children 4 to 11 yrs old: Half price

Weekend Lobby Food Fair!

EVERY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
6:00 - 9:00PM
Food \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 menu



Kanoa Resort
Saipan

Gilder Lehrman Institute donates books to MHS

Marianas High School is the recipient of a recent donation of U.S. History books from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History. Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. The Institute has developed an array of programs for schools, teachers, and students that now operate in all 50 states, including a website that features more than 60,000 unique historical documents in the Gilder Lehrman Collection. Each year the Institute offers support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers, and through them enhances the education of more than a million students. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the

Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

The Institute recognized Dr. Chas J. Algaier last year as its 2014 US Territories History Teacher of the Year. In addition to the substantial donation of books, visual resources, and digital resources, GLI awarded Algaier with a cash award, additional funds to make purchases from the GLI online store, and the opportunity to attend one of the many professional summer seminars GLI offers throughout the U.S. and England. Marianas High School has been a GLI Affiliate School since 2011.

The Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity supported through the generosity of individuals, corporations, and foundations. Donations are fully tax deductible. **(PR)**



Marianas High School principal Cherlyn Cabrera, GLI 2014 US Territories History Teacher of the Year Dr. Chas J. Algaier, and students from Dr. Algaier's 4th period AP United States History class pose with books donated to Marianas High School by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Thirteenth and Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special and Inaugural Board Meeting on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL AND INAUGURAL MEETING AGENDA

Monday, January 12, 2015
8:00 a.m.

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe, Saipan

POSTING OF COLORS

Kagman High School
Ayuyu Battalion Color Guard Team

CNMI AND NATIONAL ANTHEM

Marianas High School Glee Club

THIRTEENTH (13th) CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Herman T. Guerrero, Chairman
Call to Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, Esq.
Herman T. Guerrero

SPECIAL REMARKS OF MEMBER

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, Esq.

RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS-ELECT

Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., Commissioner of Education

Herman T. Guerrero
Florine M. Hofschneider

OATH OF OFFICE

Honorable Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice, CNMI Supreme Court

FOURTEENTH (14th) CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION INAUGURAL MEETING

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, Esq. - Pro Tem Chair
Call to Order
Roll Call
Adoption of Agenda

BRIEF REMARKS OF MEMBERS

Herman T. Guerrero
Florine M. Hofschneider

ADJOURNMENT

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

All set for Lions Clubs Health Fair

The Lions Clubs International, District 204, Region 2 will hold its annual Health Fair this Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015, from 8am to 12pm at the Joeten Daidai Social Hall of the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa.

The health fair is open to the public. The services include blood pressure testing, sugar/glucose testing, vision screening, eye pressure test, diabetes awareness campaign, cancer awareness and general health awareness. Reading glasses will also be given away on a first-

come-first-serve-basis only or while supplies last. For those who will avail the sugar/glucose test you are required to fast prior to the check up. These services will be provided by volunteers from CHC Nurses, NMC Nursing Club, Hardt Eye Clinic, and the Guam Marianas Lions Club.

Donors and sponsors of the health fair are Brabu Pharmacy & Wellness Center, PHI Pharmacy, TSL Foundation, Lion Joe Digno of Graphics, Lion Nelida Atalig of Don Pedro Restaurant, Saipan Unity Lions

Club, Zone Chair Lion Mario C. Mayuga, Lion Eli Arago, Region 2 PRO Lion Annamae Adaza, Region Chair Lion Ladyvir Canape, Region 2 Safety Officer Lion Jhun Canape and family and Lion Tess Talens.


Those who wish to donate, especially bottled water, may call Region 2 chair Lion Ladyvir Canape at 989-2545 or Region 2 secretary Lion Olive Yana at 233-3854 and Zone chair Lion Mario Mayuga at 285-1021.

These LCI-D204 Region 2 Lions Clubs is composed of

the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club, Saipan Marianas Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, Tinian Marianas Lions Club and Rota Marianas Lions Club.

District officials from Guam will join the medical mission headed by District Governor Daniel Yang, 2nd Vice District Governor Linda Tolan and other Guam Lions clubs members.

Public relation officer Lion Adaza said, "The medical mission is an annual event that is part of the Region 2 Lions Club's community services." **(PR)**



Lower your risk of getting Cervical Cancer

Cervical Cancer is Preventable!

- Avoid multiple sexual partners
- Avoid intercourse at an early age
- Use a condom
- Get your Pap Test regularly
- Don't smoke

Know your risk factors for cervical cancer. There is a number of them that increase the chance of a woman to develop cervical cancer.

For more information, please call the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at 236-8731/8727.

This Ad is brought to you by the Division of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

MTEC to host Tourism Summit on Jan. 22-23

The Marianas Tourism Education Council will hold its annual MTEC Tourism Summit for Public School System students on Jan. 22-23, 2015, at Saipan World Resort.

The summit is expected to gather 600 students to learn about tourism and express their own thoughts on the Northern Marianas' primary economic driver.

"MTEC visits the schools throughout the year, presenting information about the islands' tourism and hospitality industry. The annual tourism summit gathers the MY WAVE clubs from the schools to increase awareness of the value of tourism development," said Vicky Benavente, MTEC chairwoman. "Even at a young age, the summit participants will be able to learn about future careers and to understand the importance of caring for our natural environment, which is the number one reason most travelers will visit our islands,"

This year's summit will feature guest speakers, MY WAVE Club presentations, historical displays, and cultural entertainment.

Glenn Policare will address elementary students on Jan. 22, 2015. Policare is Director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities at Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Policare earned his bachelor's degree in Journalism at College in San Luis Obispo. With 20 years experience working at PIC Saipan's SEA Department, Policare worked through management from activities

manager to department head to director. He is also a world traveler, avid writer, and lifeguard instructor/instructor trainer.

Fred R. Schumann, Ph.D., will address secondary level students on Jan. 23, 2015. Schumann is associate professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam. Schumann has been active as a business executive in the Asia Pacific region for over 30 years, working with various multinational retail and hospitality firms. His primary research has been in the field of international tourism and trends in consumer spending. He has extensive experience in luxury and specialty retail, with groups such as DFS Guam and The Athlete's Foot Group, Inc.. At TAF, he was responsible for 196 retail stores in 17 countries/territories as Franchise Director for the Asia Pacific region.

MTEC was formed in 2002 to heighten the community's awareness of the importance of tourism to the well-being of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. MTEC's stated mission is three-fold: to foster community understanding and support of the visitor industry; educate the general public, especially school students, about the value, social benefits, and economic contributions made to the community by the visitor industry; and to instill, improve and promote the "Hafa Adai" hospitality spirit throughout the island community. (MTEC)



Schumann



Policare

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy 3rd birthday to our *uniku ihu*, Samuel S. Tomokane! May you grow in God's grace and walk in His path daily. We love you, son. Greetings come from mommy, daddy, and sisters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 2nd birthday to Ivy Vidal! May you be gifted with life's biggest joy and never-ending bliss. After all, you yourself is a gift to earth, so you deserve the best. Greetings come from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Sending lots of love and a special happy birthday shoutout from across the miles to our beautiful, loving, caring, supportive god-mother and auntie, Elizabeth Tomokane! We love you! Greetings come from Wes, Mart, Ioleen, and Esah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES

Mayor-elect David Mundo Apatang
Municipality of Saipan

THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN
respectfully requests for your presence at the
Inaugural Festivities
For Mayor-elect David Mundo Apatang

Inaugural Mass

Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
Mount Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Swearing-in Ceremony

Monday, January 12, 2015 at 8:00 a.m.
Ladera Building Grounds, Chalan Laulau, Saipan



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-009

A-16 LIFT STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation and upgrade of A-16 Sewer Lift Station. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work includes rehabilitation of the wet well, remove existing pumps and appurtenances and install new pumps, guide rails, control panel, valves, replacement of pipes and fittings, temporary wastewater bypass system, installation of new fence and gate, and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 13, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-009, A-16 Lift Station Rehabilitation Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 29, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

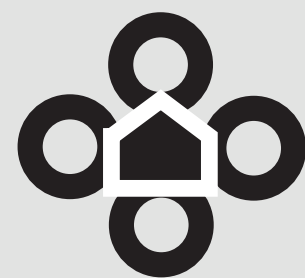
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 15, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer



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CNMI's Bleeding Disorder Conference a success

The first ever CNMI Bleeding Disorder Conference and Family Camp saw a very successful turnout. The conference, which covered disorders such as hemophilia and von Willebrand's disease, was held from Dec. 14 to 21 for medical providers, nurses, dentists, therapists, school trainers, coaches, and families.

Led by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Dr. Tiffany Lin and Pam Carhill, MPT, of Marianas Health, the overall goal of the conference was to raise awareness in the CNMI and educate providers and affected families about these uncommon diseases.

The event was sponsored by the Division of Public Health Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Biogen Idec., Los Angeles Orthopedic Institute for Children, and Marianas Health. The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and Western States Hemophilia Network also provided volunteers and technical assistance.

The conference comprised of three different learning sessions for providers and two days for the families affected by a bleeding disorder. On Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, more than 50 coaches, PE teachers, and trainers attended the Hemophilia and von Willebrand's Disease 101 session.



Participants listen as Dr. Tiffany Lin discusses bleeding disorders.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

According to a post conference evaluation, almost 90 percent of the coaches and PE teachers learned something new and approximately 70 percent found the materials used in the sports preparation lecture useful.

Dental hygienists, social workers, social worker assistants, certified nurses assistants, Northern Marianas College

nursing students, and physical therapists participated in the invitation-only event on Wednesday, Dec. 17. The providers also had the opportunity to meet Saipan's Bleeding Disorder Team and learn more about their goals and how they can collaborate to serve this unique population.

The last session for physi-

cians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, midwives, dentists, and pharmacists held on Friday, Dec. 19, received the best review with 100 percent of attendees noting that they enjoyed attending the conference.

One of the providers stated, "Thanks for providing this learning opportunity to benefit our [patients] and community."

The most exciting part of the conference was the family events on Saturday, Dec. 20, and Sunday, Dec. 21. The overnight camp included educational sessions such as how to manage injuries for members with a bleeding disorder. This event was also the first time a group of patients was able to meet other families of patients with similar

disorders and learn about their diseases. Moreover, this was an opportunity for them to support each other and meet the bleeding disorder team.

"[The conference] lessened our fears and worries," stated one of the family members.

Another one said, "I learned more about my disease than I did before. Thank you!"

The Saipan Bleeding Disorder Team includes Dr. Tiffany Lin and Pam Carhill, MPT. Lin is the Department Chair of Pediatrics at CHCC and also a pediatric hematology and oncology fellow with UC San Francisco. Carhill is a physical therapist at Marianas Health who has been working with bleeding disorder patients since 2004.

For more information about bleeding disorders or if you feel you or a family member might have a bleeding disorder, contact your family physician. (CHCC)

Coca-Cola brings smiles to Christmas drawing winners



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of Coca-Cola's "Bring Home the Holidays" share a happy moment when they received their prizes from Rusty M. Loyola, third left, operations manager, Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia), Inc. They include, from left, Hilda Sammis, Lucia Aldan, Kenji Onuma, Juan Cuellar, and Angeles B. Bolido.

In the season of happiness, Coca-Cola spreads good cheer to the Christmas drawing winners of "Bring Home the Holidays" promo.

Majority of the winners were first-timers who expressed surprise and disbelief when they received "the call" from Coca-Cola letting them know that, yes, they won in Coca-Cola's holiday promo.

Kenji Onuma said that last year was his first time to join the Coca-Cola holiday promo. The restaurant manager, who

entered five coupons from as many purchases of his favorite 12-packs, Coke Zero and Sprite Zero, won \$250 shopping certificates. He said this was his second time to win in a raffle drawing. Encouraged by his winning streak, Onuma said he intends to put in more entries to increase his chances of winning in the grand drawing.

Lucia Aldan, a community educator from the governor's office, was very busy preparing for her son's Christmas

weekend wedding when she got the notification call from Coca-Cola.

"For real?" was Aldan's incredulous response to the caller from Coca-Cola who informed her that she won not just one but two prizes in the Christmas raffle drawing. "I've never won until now." Aldan won \$100 gas certificates and a \$25 Subway Gift Card.

Aldan says that Coca-Cola has always been her favorite drink anytime of day. "I

drink Coke in the morning, in the afternoon, and I'm so happy that the first time I won is from Coke."

Comprising the rest of the winners are Angeles B. Bolido who brought home \$100 in gas certificates; Juan Cuellar and Mariano Bermudes, with a \$50 movie theater gift card each; Tyler Fitil and Hilda D. Sammis, one \$25 McDonald's Arch Card apiece; and Angela Cruzat, one \$25 Subway Gift Card.

Coca-Cola will hold the

grand drawing today at Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe from 5pm to 7pm. The grand prize, valued at just under \$3,400, is a mobile and gaming package that includes, an iPhone 6, an Xbox One, a tablet, and Docomo's Fusion 500 Online bundle composed of TV Plus (Ch 2 - 60, premium channels not included), 500 local cellular minutes with SMS, weeknights and weekends and local Max Plus Data online e broadband service. (PR)

Grace Christian Assembly celebrates 30 years

After more than a quarter century of ministry in the Northern Marianas, Grace Christian Assembly celebrates its 30th anniversary of ministry in the Northern Marianas this year with a series of activities planned for January and February 2015.

An anniversary service will be held on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, at GCA on Navy Hill at 9am. Leading up to the anniversary service, a walk/run/ride-a-thon will be held on Jan. 24, 2015, and a celebratory concert will be held at American Memorial Park on Jan. 30, 2015.

Grace Christian Assembly has churches on Navy Hill, in Kagman, and San Antonio, with a new congregation forming in Tanapag.

The Fun Run, Walk & Ride will be held to raise funds for the new church in Tanapag. The start and finish will be at Banzai Cliff. Participants may join one or more categories: 3K walk, 5K run, or 10K bike ride. Registration by Jan. 23 is \$5, and registration will be \$8 on event day. Registration on event day is at 5:30am, with a start time of 6:30am. Combined registration for the event and an anniversary T-shirt is \$15. For more information, contact Becky Robles at beckrobles0409@gmail.com or 670.789.8264.

A souvenir booklet is also being printed to mark the church's 30th anniversary. Congratulatory message and ads may be purchased by contacting Mirasol Dayao at mirasol_dayao@saipantribune.com. Ads are \$100/full page, \$50/half page, and \$25/quarter page. (GCA)

Business

Don't know your credit score? You can see it for free

NEW YORK (AP)—Good news for those resolving to keep a close eye on their credit history in 2015: There's no need to pay a dime to do so.

It's never been easier for consumers to get a hold of their credit scores or credit reports for free. Major credit card issuers, including Discover and Capital One, offer cardholders a monthly look at their three-digit scores, which are used by lenders to gauge your financial health. And CreditKarma.com, CreditSesame.com and Quizzle.com offer free scores along with free credit reports, which are a detailed list of any outstanding or past debts or any missed payments.

"As a consumer, the more options the better," says John Ulzheimer, president of consumer education at CreditSesame.com. "For decades, the only way to get these things was to buy it."

Making sure a score or report

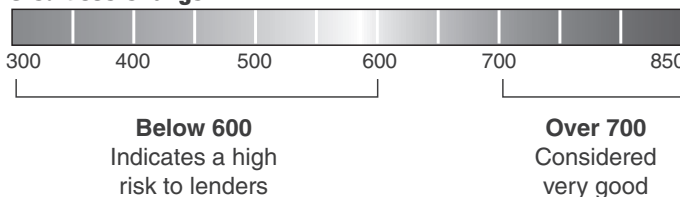
is correct is important. People with higher credit scores—they typically range from 300 to 850—are offered lower interest rates for mortgages, credit cards and other loans. Those with low scores might not be able to take out a loan, rent a home or even be hired for a job, since some employers check credit reports, too, says Eleanor Blayney, a certified financial planner and a consumer advocate at the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards.

If you check your score or credit report from more than one place, they will likely be slightly different. That's normal, says Ulzheimer. All credit scores are derived from one of the three credit reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion. Discover, for instance, lets its customers see their FICO score on its website and credit statement. (A FICO score is a brand of credit score developed by

Knowing your credit score

A credit score is a number, usually between 300 and 850, that is calculated based on your credit history. It is a measurement of how likely you are to pay back a loan on time. Different companies use different ranges of scores, so your score could vary depending on the company preparing the report. The most commonly used score is a FICO score.

Credit score range



Getting your credit score and credit report

You must pay a fee to receive your credit score, but credit reports are available free of charge by federal law. One report per year is available from each of the three primary credit reporting agencies. To order a report visit annualcreditreport.com or call 877-322-8228.

Source: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Consumer Federation of America, Fair Isaac Corp.
Graphic: Chicago Tribune/Tribune News Service

Fair Isaac Corp.) In Discover's case, the score is derived from a customer's TransUnion credit report. Quizzle.com comes up with its score based on a customer's Equifax report, CreditSesame.com uses Experian and CreditKarma.com uses both Equifax and TransUnion.

Formulations for coming up with a credit score are similar, so if you see a score that's extremely different than the others, it's a cause for concern, says Ulzheimer. If that happens, check which credit report the company is using and pull up the report to see where the error is. Mistakes or fraud should be reported to the credit reporting agency that issued the report.

Credit scores and reports

change monthly, so checking on them more often than that is not necessary, says Ulzheimer.

At the very least, credit reports should be checked once a year, says Blayney. At AnnualCreditReport.com, credit reports from each of the three reporting agencies are available once every 12 months. You can stagger them, says Blayney, by looking at the Equifax report in the first month of the year, and Experian a few months later, for example.

Some companies offering free credit scores and reports may also try to get you to sign up for credit monitoring services, which costs money, and should be avoided, says Blayney. "That is a waste of money," she says.

FBI director gives new clues tying North Korea to Sony hack scandal

NEW YORK (AP)—The FBI director revealed new details Wednesday about the stunning cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., part of the Obama administration's effort to challenge persistent skepticism about whether North Korea's government was responsible for the brazen hacking.



Comey

North Korea, as does the entire intelligence community," Comey said.

North Korea has denied it was involved in the hacking.

Comey said the Sony attack had "clear links" to malware developed by North Korea, Comey said. The same tools

were used in an attack last year on South Korean banks and media outlets, he said.

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A year ago, pundits were declaring the personal computer dead. Smartphones and tablets were cannibalizing sales, and the once-revolutionary PC seemed unnecessary—and boring.

Sure, a smartphone is great for checking emails, snapping photos and playing games. Tablets are perfect for watching videos and shopping online. But don't count the PC out just yet. Manufacturers are crafting high-resolution, curved screens for desktops and other new features you can't get in a hand-held device, while trying new laptop designs that mimic the tablet's appeal.

"For the last couple of years, mobile devices have

been the hot commodity," acknowledges Dell executive Neil Hand. "But we're seeing a re-emergence of innovation in the PC space."

For years, PC innovation consisted mostly of putting faster processors or a bigger hard-drive inside the same basic box. That didn't really matter when the personal computer was a mostly unchallenged commodity. Global PC shipments peaked at more than 365 million units in 2011. But then sales fell off dramatically as tablets stole hearts and wallets. PC sales plunged 10 percent in 2013 alone, according to research firm Gartner Inc., marking the worst annual decline in the industry's history. They slipped a little further

last year, to about 314 million units. PC makers say they understand the need to evolve, and at the annual gadget show International CES in Las Vegas this week are showing off many new features aimed at wooing back consumers.

Depth-sensing cameras, for example, are popping up in high-end desktops and laptops. Intel vice president Navin Shenoy said his company's "RealSense" camera can recognize its owner's face and unlock a PC without requiring a typed password. Intel is also promoting software that uses the camera in games that respond to a player's head or hand movements.

PC makers are borrowing ideas from tablets, with lap-

tops that are increasingly thin and lightweight, with longer battery life. Dell's new XPS 13 notebook has a screen that extends nearly to the edge of the frame, like the screen on many tablets. By eliminating wider borders, Dell says it can fit a larger screen into a smaller frame.

Several companies have hybrid or convertible devices that resemble a tablet with a physical keyboard attached. Lenovo, the Chinese company that has become the world's biggest seller of PCs, is rolling out several new models of its Yoga hybrid, first introduced last year, with a keyboard that fully folds back so you can hold the display like a tablet.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

MVA-RFP-15-2320

For: MARPI MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Closing Date: **January 23, 2015**

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., (closed 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.) Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the **MVA** website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
MVA Chair, Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING, GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ISLA FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.,) CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff,) NO.: 14-0206
v.)
FRANCES C. QUICHOCHO) SUMMONS
Defendant.) (For Publication)

TO: FRANCES C. QUICHOCHO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:

DATED: November 18, 2014

/s/ Adelpha Kapileo
CLERK OF COURT
Fourth Publication



Commonwealth Cancer Association
AWARENESS•EDUCATION•HOPE

The Commonwealth Cancer Association General Membership Meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA), and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2014 annual report of the President and Treasurer, election of four Board members and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted in advance and on the floor during the meeting.

To submit a board nomination, or for more information contact
CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com.

Nation

Obama calls French shooting ‘cowardly evil attacks’

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama called Wednesday’s deadly shooting at a satirical newspaper in Paris “cowardly evil attacks” on journalists and a free press and

vowed to help France pursue the terrorists who went on the run.

Obama said the attack that left 12 dead in France’s deadliest terror attack in at least two decades is a reminder that such

tragedies can occur anywhere in the world. He promised to stay vigilant and “hunt down and bring the perpetrators of this specific act to justice, and to roll up the networks that help to ad-

vance these kinds of plots.”

“The fact that this was an attack on journalists, attack on our free press, also underscores the degree to which these terrorists fear freedom of speech and freedom of the

press,” Obama said from the Oval Office during a meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry and Vice President Joe Biden.

“But the one thing that I’m very confident about is that the values that we share with the French people, a belief—a universal belief in the freedom of expression, is something that can’t be silenced because of the senseless violence of the few,” he added.

Obama later telephoned French President Francois Hollande from Air Force One en route to Detroit for a speech. Obama offered his condolences and expressed solidarity with Hollande and the people of France, the White House said in a statement. Obama also offered help from the United States as France tries to bring the perpetrators of the attack, and any possible accomplices, to justice.

Hollande thanked Obama for his support and updated the

president on steps to care for victims and arrest those responsible, the White House said.

Three masked gunmen stormed the office of the satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo at noon-time on Wednesday and then escaped in a car. Charlie Hebdo has been repeatedly threatened for its caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad and other controversial sketches.

Witnesses said the shooters shouted “Allahu akbar!” France raised its security alert to the highest level, as thousands honored the victims from Republic Square in Paris.

“What that beautiful city represents—the culture and the civilization that is so central to our imaginations—that’s going to endure,” Obama said. “And those who carry out senseless attacks against innocent civilians, ultimately they’ll be forgotten.”

House GOP tries to regroup after divisive speaker vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans began the new Congress with old divisions on display Wednesday, bitter fallout from a failed rebellion against Speaker John Boehner.

Boehner took swift action against two of the dissenters, knocking them from a key committee. But some of his allies demanded more, furious at the two dozen lawmakers who opposed the Ohioan in Tuesday’s speaker vote. In the process, the GOP is starting the year with party infighting instead of a unified challenge to President Barack Obama.

“All of us think that they should have retribution,” Boehner loyalist Devin Nunes of California said of the rebels. “They put the conservative agenda at risk with their wanting to be on television and radio.”

The dissidents warned of their own payback if Boehner does take further steps against them.

“There’s going to be a fight,” said Rep. Louie Gohmert, R-Texas, when asked what would happen if leaders retaliated against lawmakers who opposed Boehner’s re-election. “And it’s going to be real hard to bring the party together like

they say they want to do.”

The dispute proved a distraction as Congress convened under full GOP control for the first time in eight years. Republicans are pursuing an ambitious agenda, including early votes on bills to advance the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline, change the definition of full-time work under Obama’s health law, and delay a key provision of a 2010 financial regulation law. The White House has said Obama would veto all three measures.

In one of its first acts, the House passed legislation Wednesday to renew the fed-

eral program that props up the private market for insurance against terrorist attacks.

And in the Senate, now under GOP control, new Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky pledged to cooperate with Obama where possible, on such issues as trade and tax reform, but to challenge him elsewhere.

“The American people elected divided government. But that doesn’t mean they don’t want us to accomplish anything,” McConnell said.

In the House, the divisions that mattered were within the GOP itself.



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio walks to a closed-door meeting with House Republicans, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

FBI looks for motive in explosion near Colorado NAACP office

DENVER (AP)—The FBI is investigating the possibility that a homemade explosive set off near a Colorado NAACP office was a case of domestic terrorism.

Investigators also are considering many other possible motives and have not determined whether the nation’s oldest civil rights organization was targeted, Denver FBI spokeswoman Amy Sanders said Wednesday.

The blast happened at about 11 a.m. Tuesday outside a barbershop that shares a building

with the NAACP’s Colorado Springs chapter, about an hour south of Denver. There were no injuries and only minor damage.

While local chapter members said they were waiting for more information from law enforcement before drawing any conclusions, speculation washed across social media about whether the explosion was a hate crime. Sanders said investigators have not ruled out any possibilities.

“We’re exploring any potential motive, and domestic terrorism is certainly one among

many possibilities,” she said.

An improvised explosive device was detonated against the low-slung building, which sits in a mostly residential neighborhood, but a gasoline canister placed next to the device failed to ignite. Members of the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force are investigating because of the explosion’s proximity to the NAACP office, Sanders said.

Investigators were still looking for a balding white man in his 40s who might be driving a dirty pickup truck. His identity was still under investigation.

“This is someone we’d like to speak to,” Sanders said.

Both the chapter office and the barbershop reopened Wednesday with little police presence.

“We’re standing vigilant and are trying not to let this disrupt anything,” NAACP volunteer Harry Leroy said. Investigators were briefing the chapter’s president, Henry Allen Jr., and he wasn’t immediately available for comment.

Leroy said it was too soon to say whether the office was targeted.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI says shooter at Texas VA clinic was ex-employee

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—An Army veteran who fatally shot a psychologist at a West Texas veterans’ hospital before killing himself was a former clerk at the clinic and had threatened the doctor in 2013, the FBI said Wednesday. The FBI identified the gunman in Tuesday’s shooting as Jerry Serrato, a 48-year-old who was medically discharged from the Army in 2009 after serving in Iraq two years earlier. Douglas Lindquist, who heads the FBI’s El Paso office, said Serrato used a .380-caliber handgun to shoot Dr. Timothy Fjordbak, 63, and himself at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care System at Fort Bliss. Fjordbak was a psychologist who left private practice after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks because he wanted to work with military veterans, officials said.

2nd launch try for space station delivery set for Saturday

nute because of a problem with the Falcon rocket. The delivery was supposed to occur before Christmas, but was delayed twice in mid-December. Once the Dragon capsule is on its way, SpaceX will try to land the first-stage booster rocket on a platform floating in the Atlantic. No one has ever pulled off such a touchdown. SpaceX is one of two private companies that NASA is using to help keep the space station stocked. The last shipment attempt by Orbital Sciences Corp. ended in an explosion seconds after liftoff from Virginia in October. Saturday’s launch time is 4:47 a.m. EST.

Nebraska court could hold up Keystone pipeline

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The Republican-led Congress appears ready to approve the Keystone XL oil pipeline, but no matter what actions are taken in Washington, the entire 1,179-mile project could be delayed until Nebraska signs off on the route. After several years of intense debate, the routing process is before the Nebraska Supreme Court, and depending on how the justices rule, months or years could pass before construction begins in that state. Even if approval comes from Washington and the high court, opponents are looking for new ways to block the project, including filing a federal lawsuit on behalf of Native American tribes in Nebraska and South Dakota over the possible disruption of Indian artifacts.

Too cool for school as arctic air sends the mercury plunging

How cold is it across the U.S.? Too cool for school in many parts of the country. And so frigid in the Minnesota-St. Paul area that you could get frostbite in less time than it takes to buy car insurance. AWith wind chills plunging into the minus-30s to the minus-50s across Minnesota on Wednesday, Dr. Ryan Fey of the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis warned that serious frostbite injuries can happen in 10 minutes or less. Wet gloves, socks or boots speed up the process. So do smoking and medical conditions that cause poor circulation, such as diabetes. And the thinner skin of elderly people and children makes them more vulnerable, he said. (AP)

Asia

Divers looking for black boxes in crashed AirAsia plane

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia (AP)—The tail section of the AirAsia passenger jet that crashed late last month is upside down and partially buried in the sea floor, and experts are trying to figure out how to remove the plane's black boxes from it, an Indonesian official said.

Divers and an unmanned underwater vehicle on Wednesday spotted the tail of the plane that crashed into the Java Sea with 162 people on board. It is an important finding because the jet's black boxes—which should help pinpoint the cause of the crash—are located in that part of the aircraft.

At least six ships with equip-

ment that can detect underwater objects and the plane's black boxes, back up by nine warships, are working in the area where the tail of was spotted, said Suryadi B. Surpiyadi, a search and rescue operation coordinator from an air force base in Pangkalan Bun, close to the search area.

Suryadi said the registration number, PK-AXC, and part of the AirAsia logo proved it was the plane. He said two Indonesian military divers showed how the tail plunged into muddy seabed upside down.

"Expert teams from Indonesia and France are now looking for a technique on how to find and lift the black boxes from the



plane's tail in such a position," Suryadi said.

The tail section was located about 9 kilometers (nearly 6

miles) from where Flight 8501 lost contact Dec. 28,

Tony Fernandes, AirAsia's chief executive officer, wel-

In this undated underwater photo released by Indonesia's National Search And Rescue Agency (BASARNAS) on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, the part of the wreckage that BASARNAS identified as of the ill-fated AirAsia Flight 8501 is seen in the waters of the Java Sea, Indonesia.

comed the news. He tweeted, that if it is the tail section then the cockpit voice and flight data recorders, or black boxes, "should be there."

He said the airline's priority still is to recover all the bodies "to ease the pain of our families."

The carrier, meanwhile, said families of those killed would

be compensated in accordance with Indonesian laws.

Each will receive \$100,000 (1.25 billion rupiah), Sunu Widyatmoko, president of AirAsia Indonesia, told reporters in Surabaya.

So far, 40 corpses have been found, but time is running out, because after about two weeks, most corpses will sink, said Anton Castilani, head of Indonesia's disaster identification victim unit, and there are already signs of serious decomposition. Officials are hopeful many of the more than 122 bodies still unaccounted for will be found inside the fuselage, which is believed to be lying near the tail.

Afghanistan: Children among 9 killed in attacks

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—At least nine people were killed across Afghanistan on Wednesday, including two children who were struck by a bomb blast while gathering firewood, officials said.

The fatal blast took place in the Zhari district of the southern Kandahar province. A separate bomb blast in the Shahwali Kot district of Kandahar wounded another 10 children, leaving seven in critical condition, said Samim Khopelwaq, the spokesman for Kandahar's governor.

"Our children were there to collect wood to burn when they were hit by this bomb," said Bismallah Jan, the father of one of the wounded children. "The government should have cleared the area, it their duty to protect us."

Afghanistan is one of the

most heavily mined countries in the world, and children are often killed or wounded while playing, collecting firewood or tending animals.

In the eastern Nangarhar province bordering Pakistan, a bomb blast killed Judge Mohammad-ul Hassan and wounded two of his daughters in the provincial capital Jalalabad, police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashreqiwal said. The judge served in neighboring Laghman province.

In another attack, insurgents killed six people working on a road project, including the head of a construction company, in northern Baghlan province, police spokesman Jawed Basharat said, adding that the attack wounded another person and left two missing.

In the eastern Khost prov-

ince, three suicide bombers attacked a police academy, with one blowing himself up in a car and the other two shot by police, the provincial governor's office said. It said three police officers

were wounded.

The Taliban claimed the attacks in Nangarhar and Khost.

In the southern Helmand province, police spokesman Fareed Ahmad Obaid said a rocket

fired by the Taliban killed three members of the same family -- a man, woman and child -- when it hit a house in the Nawzad district late Tuesday.

Two other children, members of the same family, were wounded, he said.

Taliban insurgents have stepped up attacks on Afghan soldiers and police in recent months. U.S. and NATO forces concluded their combat mission at the end of last year and Afghan troops took charge from Jan. 1.

Manila traffic enforcers to wear diapers during the pope's visit

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—When Pope Francis visits the Philippines next week, traffic enforcers won't let the capital's streets get gridlocked if they have to answer the call of nature.

About 2,000 traffic enforcers who will be on duty during the Jan. 15-19 papal visit will be required to wear adult diapers, said Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chairman Francis Tolentino.

Tolentino also encouraged people who will wait for hours to see the pope to also wear diapers.

The prospect of wearing diapers while on duty was "well received" by his men, he said Wednesday.

Tolentino said the idea will be tested on Friday by 800 traffic enforcers who work shifts during the nearly 24-hour annual procession of the Black Nazarene. It will be the first time that traffic enforcers in the Philippines will wear diapers while on

duty in the streets, he said.

The Black Nazarene procession attracts hundreds of thousands of barefoot mostly-male Filipino Roman Catholics who parade a centuries-old black statue of Jesus Christ which devotees believe possess mystical powers that could cure ailments and answer wishes of good health and fortune.

Tolentino says there won't be enough portable toilets for the millions of people expected to see Pope Francis hold an open-air Mass at the seaside Rizal Park on Jan. 18.

"If you attend an event that will last for 24 hours, you cannot go around looking for a (portable toilet)," Tolentino said.

Priests, nuns, seminarians, and the elderly also should consider wearing diapers, he said.

Asked if he will also wear one, Tolentino said, "I will try, but in my case, I have less hy-dration."



Afghan firefighters clear the site of a blast that killed a provincial judge in Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province, Afghanistan Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015.

China hosts Latin American leaders, hails ties with region

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping hailed burgeoning ties Thursday with Latin America, pledging to use his country's economic clout to support billions of dollars in regional projects and almost double two-way trade to \$500 billion over the next 10 years.

Xi was addressing a two-day meeting for officials from left-leaning nations in the Western Hemisphere a day after meeting in Beijing with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who said he received pledges of \$20 billion in Chinese investment into his coun-

try's beleaguered economy.

Xi emphasized the potential for future growth in ties between China and the grouping of more than 30 nations known as the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which together account for 1/8th of the global economy. The late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and other leftist leaders pushed the bloc as an alternative to U.S.-led regional organizations.

"I am sure that this meeting will yield rich results, send to the world a strong message of our commitment to deepening cooperation for common

development," Xi said. "We are bound together by shared dreams and common pursuits."

Xi emphasized China's commitment to its independent foreign policy and maintaining an equal partnership with the region, comments likely to appeal to many in the region who resent what they see as unfair dominance by the United States.

Trade between China and the region has grown from \$10 billion in 2000 to \$257 billion in 2013, driven largely by Chinese demand for commodities such as crude oil and soybeans. While slowing growth in China

will soften demand for such products, Xi said Latin America and the Caribbean would benefit heavily from forecasts of \$10 trillion in Chinese imports over the next five years.

Along with the targeted increase in two-way trade, Xi said he wanted to increase direct investment in the region to \$250 billion over the next five years. China last July extended a \$20 billion loan to the region for infrastructure development, another \$10 billion in preferential loans, a \$5 billion fund for cooperation between the sides and \$50 million for agricultural development.

World

Hunt for 2 in French shooting that killed 12; 1 surrenders



An injured person is evacuated outside the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo's office, in Paris, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015. AP

PARIS (AP)—One man sought in the deadly shooting at a French satirical paper has turned himself in, and police hunted Thursday for two heavily armed men with possible links to al-Qaida in the military-style, methodical killing of 12 people at the office of a satirical newspaper that caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

President Francois Hollande, visiting the scene of France's deadliest such attack in more than half a century, called the assault on the weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo "an act of exceptional barbarism."

France raised its terror alert system to the maximum—Attack Alert—and bolstered se-

curity with more than 800 extra soldiers to guard media offices, places of worship, transport and other sensitive areas. Fears had been running high in France and elsewhere in Europe that jihadis trained in warfare abroad would stage attacks at home.

French brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi, in their early 30s, should be considered armed and dangerous, according to a police bulletin released early Thursday. Mourad Hamyd, 18, surrendered at a police station in Charleville-Mezieres, a small town in France's eastern Champagne region, said Paris prosecutor's spokeswoman Agnes Thibault-Lecuire. She did

not offer details on Hamyd's relationship to the men, but said he turned himself in because he heard his name on the news in connection with the attack.

By then, heavily armed police had already moved into the nearby city of Reims, searching for the suspects without success. Video from BFM-TV showed police dressed in white apparently taking samples inside an apartment. It was not immediately clear who lived there.

One police official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing, said they were linked to a Yemeni terrorist network, and Cedric Le Bechec, a witness

who encountered the escaping gunmen, quoted the attackers as saying: "You can tell the media that it's al-Qaida in Yemen."

Cherif Kouachi, who is now 32, was sentenced to 18 months in prison after being convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for helping funnel fighters to Iraq's insurgency. He said he was out-

Suicide bomber kills at least 37 at Yemen police academy

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden minibus into a gathering of recruits outside a police academy in the heart of Yemen's capital on Wednesday, killing at least 37 people in the latest high-profile attack to hit Sanaa.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Yemen's local al-Qaida branch has carried out similar assaults in the past against the army and police in this impoverished Arabian Peninsula country, viewing them as U.S. proxies.

The U.S. provides counterterrorism training and assistance to Yemeni forces, and frequently carries out drone strikes targeting al-Qaida militants in Yemen.

At the scene of the blast, the dead and wounded lay on a sidewalk against a wall. On the pavement, water sprayed by firefighters to extinguish the blaze from the explosion of the minibus mixed with pools of blood. A charred taxi cab smoldered near what remained of the minibus, meters (yards) from the gate of the police academy, located in a residential area.

The bomber struck as cadets

raged at the torture of Iraqi inmates at the U.S. prison at Abu Ghraib near Baghdad.

The masked, black-clad men with assault rifles stormed the offices near Paris' Bastille monument in the Wednesday

noontime attack on the publication, which had long drawn condemnation and threats—it was firebombed in 2011—for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures.

'Je Suis Charlie' message goes viral after Paris attack

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Messages of condolence, outrage and defiance over the Paris terrorist attack on a newspaper office spread quickly around the world Wednesday with thousands of people taking to the streets to protest the killings and using the slogan "Je Suis Charlie" on social media.

Many who poured into Place de la Republique in eastern Paris near the site of Wednesday's noontime attack waved papers, pencils and pens. Journalists led the march but most in the crowd weren't from the media world, expressing solidarity and support of freedom of speech.

Similar gatherings, including some silent vigils, took place at London's Trafalgar Square, in front of the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin, in Madrid, Brussels, Nice and elsewhere.

"No matter what a journalist or magazine has to say, even if it is not what the majority of people think, they still have the right to say it without feeling

in danger, which is the case today," said Alice Blanc, a London student who is originally from Paris and was among those in the London crowd, estimated in the hundreds.

Online, the declaration "Je Suis Charlie," or "I Am Charlie," replaced profile pictures on Facebook while Twitter users showed themselves with the slogan on signs with words of support for the 12 victims who were killed at Charlie Hebdo, a weekly newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad.

The "Je Suis Charlie" slogan grew into a trending hashtag on Twitter and spread to Instagram, along with an image of a machine gun with the words "Ceci n'est pas une religion," or "This is not a religion."

One user on Instagram sent out a simple black-and-white drawing of the Eiffel Tower with the message: "Pray for Paris." Another wrote: "Islam is a beautiful religion. This is not what we see on TV. Terrorists are not real Muslims. (hash)IamCharlie."

Planned, cold-blooded killings mark French newspaper attack

PARIS (AP)—Two heavily armed men in black, their faces hidden by ski masks, take down a police officer on a Paris sidewalk with a spray of bullets. One walks up to the victim, who is sprawled on the ground, and delivers a final shot to the officer's head despite the arm raised in a final plea for mercy.

The methodical, cold-blooded killing before noon Wednesday marked the end of a massacre only minutes earlier in the offices of the satirical French weekly Charlie Hebdo that killed 12 people, including noted cartoonists and the well-known newspaper editor and cartoonist Stephane Charbonnier, widely known as Charb. Eleven other people were wounded in the terror attack, four of them in critical condition, according to state prosecutor Francois Molins.

The two men had opened fire twice on police patrols, one on bicycles, since the massacre minutes earlier, but injured no one. Then they ran into the doomed officer. After the point blank-range slaying, they calmly walked to their getaway car.

The killers were heard crying "Allahu akbar!"—Arabic for "God is great!"—and saying they were avenging the Prophet of Islam after they attacked the weekly publication during an editorial meeting, a video shows. But no one has claimed responsibility.

The professional military bearing of the attackers and reports that they spoke fluent French raised a host of questions. Were they hired guns acting on orders from some terror group? Or perhaps battle-hardened French jihadis returning from Syria to fulfill France's

greatest fear?

Late Wednesday, police identified three men, including two brothers, as suspects in the attack. One police official said the men had links to a Yemeni terrorist network. Witnesses of the attackers' escape through Paris said one claimed allegiance to al-Qaida in Yemen.

France raised its terror alert to maximum and President Francois Hollande vowed to "hunt them as long as necessary."

In a display of professional nonchalance, the two, bearing what looked like assault rifles, were caught in a chilling video that showed them almost casually walking to a black Citroen parked between rental vehicles on the French capital's busy Boulevard Richard Lenoir. Before slipping into the passenger seat, one bent down and retrieved a fallen object, tossing it inside.



were lined up outside the academy, preparing to enroll, witnesses said.

"It went off among all of them, and they flew through the air," eyewitness Jamil al-Khaleedi told The Associated Press.

Police Brig. Gen. Abdulaziz al-Qudsi said at least 37 people were killed and 66 wounded. Another security official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to media, said at least three civilians were among the dead.

Both the United Nations and the United States condemned the attack and expressed condolences to the victims and their families.

Violence has soared in

Yemen since Shiite rebels known as Houthis swept down from their northern strongholds last year, capturing Sanaa and other cities.

The rebels are challenging the government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, demanding a greater share of power. But on occasion, the rebels have also gone after al-Qaida, with clashes and targeted attacks leaving scores dead. Critics of the rebels view them as a proxy for Shiite powerhouse Iran—charges the rebels deny.

Tribal leaders and Yemeni officials have said the rising power of the Houthis, their advance into Sunni areas and the backlash over drone strikes has caused al-Qaida to surge in strength and find new recruits.

Washington considers al-Qaida's Yemen affiliate, linked to several failed attacks in the U.S., to be the most dangerous branch of the global terror network.

In 2012, the group claimed responsibility for another devastating attack on security forces—a suicide bombing at a rehearsal for a military parade in May in Sanaa that killed 96 soldiers and wounded at least 200.

Off The Wall

Woman plunging San Diego toilet pulls up 5 1/2-foot snake

 **OFFBEAT BRIEFS**

Va. transportation department turning roadkill into compost

WINDSOR, Va. (AP)—The Virginia Department of Transportation is working to turn highway carcasses into plant food. The state agency is testing the practice of turning roadkill into compost at four sites across the state, using a special system that accelerates decomposition and suppresses odors. The Virginian-Pilot reports the system costs \$140,000 and can break down animals in as little as six weeks in concrete bins. The compost is then used to control erosion and help establish grass after construction. Officials say roadkill collected by the agency is traditionally buried or driven to landfills at a cost of \$4 million a year for disposal. Several other states already have widespread programs to compost roadkill.

Responders pull 2 elk from frigid Colorado pond

ASPEN, Colo. (AP)—Responders have rescued two elk that fell through the ice of a pond near a Colorado resort town, but a third elk didn't survive. A homeowner discovered the animals in the pond near Aspen on Monday morning. Firefighters worked with Colorado wildlife officers to cut a channel in the ice leading the shore and pull them out. Pitkin County Sheriff's Office spokesman Alex Burchetta says the elk were in the frigid water for at least an hour and a half, and the two survivors were very tired by the time they got out. Temperatures were in the 20s during the rescue.

Man tells cops 'everyone drives drunk' on New Year's Eve

VINELAND, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say a southern New Jersey man cited for drunken driving on New Year's Eve claimed he shouldn't be charged because it's a time when "everyone drives drunk." According to a police report, Daniel Pratts was stopped around midnight after an officer saw him go through a stop sign in Vineland. The Daily Journal reports that Pratts performed poorly in roadside sobriety testing and was taken to police headquarters for processing. According to the police report, while there, he told another officer, "It's New Year's Eve, everyone drives drunk." Pratts also was cited for refusal to take a breath test and reckless driving.

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Officials in San Diego are trying to sort out how a 5 1/2-foot snake wound up in a toilet at an office building.

Stephanie Lacsa told San Diego County authorities she noticed the water level in the toilet was higher than usual when she went to the second-floor restroom Tuesday. When she plunged it, a snake popped up

and flicked its tongue. She ran out, taped the door shut and called Animal Services. The department says an animal control officer found a giant Columbian rainbow boa on the floor. The snake was shedding and slightly underweight. It was taken to an animal care facility and bit a handler. If the owner doesn't show up by Friday, the snake will go to a rescue group. How it got in the toilet remains a mystery.

NYC mayor happy to not hold a groundhog this year

NEW YORK (AP)—The groundhog might see his shadow on Feb. 2—but he won't be seeing Mayor Bill de Blasio.

A year after a groundhog slipped from de Blasio's grasp during the annual Staten Island Zoo Groundhog Day ceremony, the zoo is reportedly making a change to prevent the mayor from handling the animal.

De Blasio, for one, would be happy with the new plan. "I think reform is needed," de Blasio joked Wednesday during an unrelated news conference in Brooklyn. "I welcome a new approach."

A year ago, the creature squirmed from de Blasio's grasp after predicting six more weeks of winter and fell several feet to the ground. It died a week later.

An autopsy revealed it suffered internal injuries, but it was not clear if they stemmed from the fall.

Moreover, it was revealed that the rodent that died was not the zoo's famed Staten Island Chuck, but rather a female stand-in named Charlotte. The zoo did not notify the mayor's office about the death.

The story prompted a flood of Twitter jokes about a (hash)

Groundhoghazi cover-up and de Blasio's possible impeachment. And it wasn't even the first time a mayor had had an unfortunate run-in with a Staten Island groundhog: A squirming Chuck bit then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2009.

The New York Post reported Tuesday that the zoo is changing its ceremony this February so the mayor won't pick up the animal. Instead, it will be in a plexiglass case. A spokesman at the zoo declined to comment.

Last year was de Blasio's first time participating in the ceremony. He admitted Wednesday that he wasn't ready to handle the groundhog.

"I must say last time, there was not an overwhelming amount of preparation and orientation before I was handed him," de Blasio said. "May he rest in peace."

The zoo has four groundhogs, all with the variations of the brand name "Chuck." On the morning of Feb. 2, zoo staff selects which of the groundhogs will participate in the ceremony and be dubbed Chuck for the day.

The animal's formal name is Charles G. Hogg.



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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

List: Please save 'knavery,' 'flapdoodle' and 'rapsallion'

DETROIT (AP)—As a new year dawns, a Detroit university wants to bring worthy words back from the brink.


Knavery, you say? Well the word for "a roguish or mischievous act" is among 10 phrases that comprise Wayne State University's annual Word Warriors list.

The 2015 edition of words worth reviving was released Monday. It also includes "caterwaul," which means a shrill or wailing noise; "rapsallion," meaning a mischievous person; and "flap-

doodle," or nonsense. While this list giveth back to culture, another taketh away. Word Warriors comes days after Sault Ste. Marie's Lake Superior State University released its List of Words Banished from the Queen's English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness.

That list seeks to scrap a dirty dozen, including "bae," "foodie," and "hack."

Both universities accept nominations online.



WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Graphic Artist
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two years experience in computer/network maintenance field required; formal education/training in IT or Design related subjects highly preferred. One (1) Graphic Artist position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Housekeeping Attendant & Laundry Attendant
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide customer service. Six (6) positions are currently available for the housekeeping attendant. Four (4) positions are currently available for the laundry attendant.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Cook
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Two years of formal training/education in culinary arts required. Position requires employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Server
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in food service preferred. Position will require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred. Six (6) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Reservations Clerk
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel reservations preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. One (1) position is currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Guest Relations Officer
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Proficiency in the Korean or the Mandarin language is required. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile. Four (4) positions are currently available.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Lifeguard & Kids College Attendant
SALARY: Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification will be required for continued employment for the lifeguard position. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children for the kids' college attendant. Must have a friendly and an outgoing personality. Eight (8) positions are currently available for the lifeguard position. One (1) position is currently available for the kids college attendant.

OPEN DATE: January 7, 2015
CLOSE DATE: January 21, 2015

POSITION: Mechanic & Electrician
SALARY: Negotiable

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum of two (2) years of formal mechanical experience or mechanical training is required. Two years of experience in related field strongly preferred. Two (2) positions are currently available for the mechanic position. Two (2) positions are currently available for the electrician position.

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576. Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Science & Technology

Tablet apps let cats catch critters in cyberspace

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When Laura Fritz's felines play with her iPad, her fat cat loses the urge to eat, her scaredy-cat loses his fear and her youngest just loses interest.

If you've had enough time to play with the tablet you got for the holidays, try turning the

device over to your tech-savvy cat. Every cat app, no matter the maker, has something for felines to electronically track, stalk or hunt, such as mice, bugs or laser dots.

"Cats are attracted to things that move, and that is the 'magic' for most of the apps," said

Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and executive director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

"The motion in most apps is jerky and quick, much like an insect," she said, adding that

any sound component would quickly be eclipsed by the draw of movement.

Every cat is different, but if they are like two of Fritz's, they will love pawing the screen to catch critters, which breaks anxious Maxie out of his shell and gives hefty Mr. Brutus a way to exercise, said Fritz of Waltham, Massachusetts. But they may be like her youngest, Pansy Rose, who couldn't care less.

Maxie and Brutus work together on the app "Paint for Cats," chasing a mouse and leaving a trail of splattered paint where they have pawed, rubbed,

jumped or made other marks with their movements. Many cat owners see the results as art worthy of sharing on social media, so the app allows people to email the creations.

It is among three popular apps created by T.J. Fuller and Nate Murray's Los Angeles company Hiccup. The company also features a mouse chasing game called "Game for Cats" and monster crushing game dubbed "Catzilla."

There are several cat apps on the market. "Pocket Pond" for Android tablets allows cats to follow fish or dragonflies with

their paws. Friskies' "Cat Fishing" also taps into the fish theme for Android and Apple devices.

Some people worry about damage to the devices, but claws won't hurt the screen, said Fuller, who ran many tests. But nobody has tested for teeth, and Karen Rittmuller of Salem, Massachusetts, found a problem with a bite.

Rittmuller tried to get her calico cat Pixel to live up to her high-tech name, so she downloaded "Game for Cats," but her pet will only stalk, pounce and bite the iPad, so she took it away.



This August 2011, video frame grab provided by T.J. Fuller shows a cat named Maxine playing "Game for Cats" on an iPad in Valencia, Calif.

TECH Q&A

Surprise from Windows dims laptop screen

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: A few weeks ago, my Windows 8 laptop unexpectedly started loading Windows 8.1, and there was no way I could stop it. Since then, my screen has been so dim that it's hard to see, which is a problem because I do business accounting with it.

Using the keyboard buttons, I can brighten the screen, but after a few seconds it goes dim again. What can I do?

A: You aren't the first person to have PC problems after a sudden and unexpected upgrade from Windows 8 to Windows 8.1 (see tinyurl.com/q7zvxe6). This appears to happen on PCs that are set to update Windows automatically.

Other Windows 8 users can avoid an unexpected operating system upgrade by changing the Windows update settings to "download updates but let me choose whether to install them" (see tinyurl.com/ceqpbwj). One strategy is to install only updates labeled "critical."

Fortunately, there are several ways to adjust screen brightness besides the keyboard method.

To brighten your screen with Windows 8.1, you can:

Use the "settings" icon found in the "charms bar." Click the "brightness" icon and move the slider up to make the screen brighter.

Or you can click on the "power system icon" (it looks like a battery next to an electrical plug) in the taskbar at the bottom of the screen. Click "adjust screen brightness," and at the bottom of the resulting menu, move the slider control to the right to brighten the screen.

Alternatively, you can change the "power plan settings." Click the same power system icon as before, then choose "more power options." On the resulting menu, check the box next to "high performance," and to the right of that click "change plan settings." Near the bottom of the next menu, click "change advanced power settings." In the resulting list, you can increase the screen's "display brightness" to as much as 100 percent (it's often set at less). When your laptop is running on battery, a higher display brightness will use it up faster.

For an overview of these screen-brightening options,

see tinyurl.com/kjv2yds. See tinyurl.com/bpmk85s for details on changing the power plan settings.

Q: How can I transfer my purchased iTunes songs from my iPhone 4 to a new iPhone 6?

A: Transfer the songs by backing up your iPhone 4 to your computer or to Apple's online iCloud service, then copying the data to the iPhone 6.

The iPhone 4 backup to iCloud is free, though your phone must be plugged in to electricity and connected to Wi-Fi. When you set up the new iPhone 6, tap on "restore from iCloud backup."

Or you can back up your iPhone 4 to iTunes on a computer via a USB cord. After setting up the iPhone 6, connect it to iTunes and choose "restore backup." For more, see tinyurl.com/qz4xl2v.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

In Loving Memory of

†Francisco Babauta Castro

July 07, 1953 – January 07, 2015

In His new life, he now joins his:

Father : †Marceliano Manibusan Castro

Sister : †Alicia Manglona

Daughter : †Mary B. Castro
‡Susan B. Castro

Parents In Law : †Petra Reyes Babauta
‡Jesus Miyasaki Babauta

His Memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Theresita Babauta Castro

Children and Families:

Emily B. Castro & Samal Jones (Kylah Denice)

Pearl B. Castro & (Trevin, Keiji, Trixin, Petra Doreen)

Daisy B. Castro & (Sasia Kailani, Devin Karter)

Nathan B. Castro & Renlee Manibusan (Theia Kohana)

Mother: Dolores Lizama Babauta Castro


Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:

John & Rose Castro	Ton & Maricar Castro
Mark Castro & Maggie Muna	Ben & Lucy Castro
Roy Castro & Cel Gapach	Tina C. & Gus Kaneshi
John Manglona	Joe & Faye Castro
Lola C. & Joe Mafnas	Rit C. & Ben Agulto
Jess & Nora Castro	

Special Cousin / Best friend: Chel & Pat Castro

In Laws:

Juan R. Babauta	Diego R. & Dolorina J. Babauta
Joseph R. & Lydia A. Agumon Babauta	Pat B. & Juan A. Camacho
Oscar R. & Lorraine Warwick Babauta	Franklin R. & Celina R. Babauta
Donald R. Babauta	Anthony R. & Melissa DLG Babauta
	Jesse R. Babauta




Daily Mass of Intentions for the repose of his soul is being celebrated at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:00pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Service will be announced at a later date.

Please Join Us in Prayers,

The Family

Former PSS School Psychologist Remembered



Former PSS school psychologist, Valerie Veres died peacefully attended by friends Dec. 26th in Chiang Mai, Thailand, her home for the past 12 years. Valerie's health deteriorated due to a stroke over 4 years ago, and she spent this past year in a nursing home. She was cremated Jan 6th, followed by a memorial service for friends at a Buddhist Wat (temple) in Chiang Mai. She will be very fondly remembered as an energetic and vivacious woman totally engaged in life and always involved in helping others. She earned her PhD at the University of Michigan in Psychology and was a school psychologist in California. More recently she served PSS students' needs on all three islands during the late '90s and early 2000s. She and her husband, Wanit, also deceased, operated the NitNai Thai restaurant across from PIC during their time here. Those wishing to contribute to a memorial fund in her name to help handicapped Thai children may email angie.sills@gmail.com for further information.

IN LOVING MEMORY

TIMOTHY
LEE SALAS
WESLEY, JR.*Lovingly known as Timmy*

August 19, 1997 - January 3, 2015

*His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:***Father and Stepmom:** Timothy Lee Villagomez Wesley
and Rowena Tapal Wesley**Mother and Stepfather:** Eva Marie Welson Salas
and Wayne Peter Ayuyu Sakisat**Brothers:** Brandon Joseph DLG. Wesley
Aiden Manuel T. Wesley
Peter Alek S. Sakisat
Patrick Aluis S. Sakisat**Paternal Grandparents:** Joseph D. and Barbara V. Wesley**Paternal Great Grandma:** Margarita D. Wesley**Maternal Grandparents:** Angel D. and Florentina W. Salas**Maternal Great Grandparents:** Joaquin T. and Maria D. Salas**Paternal Uncles and Aunties:**Walter Anthony V. and Roselyn C. Wesley
(Wally, AJ, Vince, RayeAnn, and Ryan)Jason Joseph V. and Gina Lyn D. Wesley
(Mercedes & Raheem [Jacob, Sheem, & Lennie], JJ, JunJun,
and Mandi)

Manuel V. Wesley (AlanaJo)

Maternal Uncles:

Vincent W. Salas (Felisha, Angela, and Daeus)

Victor W. Salas (Angerika)

Angel W. Salas, Jr. and Amanda S. Pruneda (Jasmin Jae)

*He is also survived by numerous uncles,
aunties, cousins, nephews, and nieces.**In his new life, he is reunited with:***Paternal Great Grandparents:** †Manuel S. and †Luise P. Villagomez,
and †Teodocio C. Wesley**Maternal Great Grandma:** †Feliciana M. Welson

The holy rosary is being said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, our beloved Timmy will arrive at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 8:00 a.m. for funeral service and last respects.
Eucharistic mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Christian burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery, Saipan.*Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Kalahngan, and Salamat Po.***The Family**

Life & Style

Cartoonists, economist among the dead in Paris terror attack

By DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The 12 people killed in the terrorist attack on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo included a prominent economist and some of France's leading cartoonists. A look at some of the victims:

Stephane Charbonnier, 47, known professionally as Charb, was chief editor of Charlie Hebdo, as well as one of its top cartoonists and a stout defender of its provocative approach.

He was in charge when the paper's offices were destroyed by a firebomb in 2011 after it had proposed inviting the Prophet Muhammad to be a guest editor.

Charbonnier defiantly held up a copy of the paper as he stood amid debris. In an interview with The Associated Press, he suggested the attackers "are themselves unbelievers ... idiots who betray their own religion."

In 2012, the paper again provoked controversy by publishing crude caricatures of Muhammad. Charbonnier, who by that time was under police protection, defended the cartoons.

"Muhammad isn't sacred to me," he said. "I don't blame Muslims for not laughing at our drawings. I live under French law. I don't live under Quranic law."

In an interview with Le Monde, one of France's leading newspapers, he professed to be unafraid.

"I don't have kids, no wife, no car, no credit," he told Le Monde. "Maybe it's a little pompous to say, but I'd rather die standing than live on my knees."

Bernard Maris, 68, gained prominence as both an economist and a journalist.

He wrote a weekly column in Charlie Hebdo called "Uncle



In this Sept. 19, 2012 file photo, Stephane Charbonnier also known as Charb, the publishing director of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo, displays the front page of the newspaper as he poses for photographers in Paris.

SIDE BAR

Worth 1,000 words: Cartoonists draw for slain colleagues

PARIS (AP)—As if to prove that pens are mightier than swords, cartoonists around the world reacted to the cold-blooded assassination of their colleagues at French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo as only they can: with powerful drawings worth thousands of words.

Defiant, angry, poignant, irreverent and sobering, their drawings united cartoonists in grief, tried to make sense of the nonsensical, and sent a shared

message: We must not, will not and should not be silenced. Some drawings touched such a nerve they made one want to both laugh and cry.

"Can't sleep tonight, thoughts with my French cartooning colleagues, their families and loved ones," David Pope, cartoonist for The Canberra Times in Australia, wrote on his Twitter feed.

His drawing showed the lifeless body of a cartoonist and a hooded gunman hold-

ing a still-smoking rifle and saying: "He drew first."

In India, cartoonist Manjul drew a plane exploding in a fireball into the Eiffel Tower, its pointy top redrawn as the nib of an ink pen.

One of the most powerful drawings had no drawing. Christian Adams' cartoon for The Daily Telegraph in London showed a completely blank space with the heading: "Extremist approved cartoon."

Another Telegraph cartoon

showed one gunman saying to another: "Be careful, they might have pens."

The 12 people killed in the terrorist attack in Paris on Wednesday included some of France's leading cartoonists. Reveling in provocation and taking pride in their freedom to poke fun at anyone—be they popes, presidents, public figures or the Prophet Muhammad—they also faced frequent outrage and threats because of their work.

Gay advocates assail new TV show 'My Husband's Not Gay'

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Preston "Pret" Dahlgren has led what might seem like a picture-perfect Mormon life: He met his high school sweetheart in Sunday school as a teenager, completed his mission and married her. He is active in the church and the proud father of two young daughters.

Dahlgren also is attracted to men.

His story is the subject of a new TV show called "My Husband's Not Gay," which gay-rights advocacy groups are calling irresponsible and dangerous. They want the TLC cable network to pull the plug on the program before it airs Sunday.

Dahlgren and another Mormon man from Utah featured in the show say they're happy in their marriages, and they hope the program gives stories like theirs a foothold in the conversation about sexuality.

Dahlgren said he's known he was attracted to men since he was about 12 years old, but he also always wanted the kind of family he grew up in: a father, mother and children.

"There are a lot of stories out there, and this just isn't one of them," Preston Dahlgren, 32, said in an interview with The Associated Press this week.

The gay rights group GLAAD, however, says the show sends the wrong message and is a sad reminder of so-called gay conversion therapy, often faith-based efforts designed to change sexual orientation that can be emotionally scarring. New Jersey and California in 2013 banned therapists from practicing gay conversion therapy on children and teenagers. The American Medical Association and the American Psychological Association do



Preston "Pret" and Megan Dahlgren hold their daughter Naomi as they pose for a photograph Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, near Salt Lake City.

not support the therapy.

"No one can change who they love, and, more importantly, no one should have to," GLAAD president Sarah Kate Ellis said in a statement. "By investing in

this dangerous programming, TLC is putting countless young LGBT people in harm's way."

The organization pointed to a change.org petition asking TLC to cancel the show that

so far has gathered more than 80,000 signatures. Responding to GLAAD, the network says it will tell compelling stories about different ways of life, and the four men on the hourlong show speak only for themselves.

Jeff Bennion, 44, met his wife, Tanya, more than 13 years ago after he had dated men. He told her he was attracted to men after they'd been dating for about a year and a half.

"I was devastated because I didn't know what that meant for me," said Tanya Bennion, 42. She worried that he'd cheat on her with a friend but said the couple's strong connection helped her work through her questions.

Megan Dahlgren says her marriage remains strong, including the physical aspects of their relationship. "We do have a happy, healthy sex life," she said.

Dahlgren and Bennion both said their upbringing in The Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

ter-day Saints was a big part of why they wanted to remain in a husband-and-wife relationship.

"I would say it was part of my decision early on, especially, and a big influencer of that," Dahlgren said. "It certainly helped guide me toward where I'm at today, no doubt about it."

Church spokesman Eric Hawkins said in a statement Tuesday that marriage is deeply personal.

"While the church does not promote marriage as a treatment method for same-sex attraction, couples who are trying to be lovingly supportive of each other while being true to their religious convictions deserve our support and respect," Hawkins said.

Jeff Bennion said he would be horrified if a parent told a gay child that they should be more like one of the men on the show.

"That's not anything that I would support or agree with," he said.

Cabut's son, Mano Solo, a prominent singer and composer, died in 2010 at age 46.

Georges Wolinski, 80, was another of Charlie Hebdo's veteran cartoonists. His works had appeared in Hara-Kiri, Paris Match and numerous other publications.

He was born in Tunisia and moved to France as a schoolboy. By age 26, he was working for Hara-Kiri.

He was awarded the Legion of Honor, France's highest decoration, in 2005.

Cartoonist Bernard Verlhac, who drew under the name Tignous, was born in Paris in 1957 and published his first works in 1980.

Netflix says it wants to stream 'The Interview'

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Netflix wants to make Sony's "The Interview" available to its 53 million worldwide subscribers, the streaming service's chief content officer said Wednesday.

Ted Sarandos of Netflix would not comment on efforts to make that possible, however. The movie starring Seth Rogen and James Franco is available on some other video services and in some independent theaters, after its wide release was canceled due to the Sony hacking scandal.

"People want to see the movie and we want to be able to deliver the movie," Sarandos told reporters at a television conference.

Sony declined to comment on the possibility of a Netflix air-



This photo released by Sony - Columbia Pictures shows James Franco, left, as Dave and Seth Rogen as Aaron in a scene from Columbia Pictures' "The Interview."

ing, a spokesman said.

Rogen and Franco play jour-

nalists involved in a CIA plot to kill North Korean leader Kim

Jong Un. Before the movie could be released, the Sony studio's computer system was hacked by unknown assailants linked to North Korea, leading the studio to ditch plans to release the movie widely on Christmas day.

Even without Netflix, Sony Pictures Entertainment said this week that "The Interview" has been rented or purchased online more than 4.3 million times, totaling over \$31 million in consumer sales. Sony says that has made it the company's top online film ever; it has made \$5 million in theater box offices.

"The Interview" has been available through Google Play, YouTube Movies, Microsoft's Xbox Video and various video-on-demand services.

Neil deGrasse Tyson says he's not anti-Christian

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson says his Christmas tweet about Isaac Newton shouldn't be interpreted to mean he's anti-Christian.

Tyson, who will host a new late-night talk show on the National Geographic Channel starting in April, attracted attention for tweeting on Dec. 25: "On this day long ago, a child was born who, by age 30, would transform the world. Happy

Birthday Isaac Newton b. Dec. 25, 1642."

It was retweeted some 80,000 times, or about 40 times more than his typical messages are shared.

He said Wednesday that he was trying to give people a cosmic perspective, and wasn't trying to insult Christians.

"We know Isaac Newton was



Tyson

born on Christmas Day," he said at a television conference. "Who knows when Jesus was born?"

He said he was surprised that his tweet seemed to hit a nerve.

"It's free speech, so I'm an observer of this, almost as an anthropologist," he said.

Tyson's new show, "Star Talk," will be the National

Geographic Channel's first late-night series. It's based on his podcast that tries to mix pop culture with science. The show will be taped before a studio audience at the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium in New York, the network said.

"We bring science to people who didn't know they liked science, or thought they didn't like science," he said.

Family absent from premiere of Houston biopic

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—The premiere of "Whitney" was no family affair. But no one expected Whitney Houston's kin to attend.

"It was the family's choice and decision because of what they want to do and whatever their desires or their plans are, not to be involved in this one," director Angela Bassett said of "Whitney," a new telefilm about the beloved entertainer's triumphant career, often troubled life and tragic death.

But a blast of Houston's colleagues and friends did make

the screening. It took place at the Paley Center for Media, just blocks from the Beverly Hilton hotel, where the 48-year-old Houston drowned in her guest room in February 2012. The official coroner's report listed heart disease and cocaine as contributing factors in her death.

Guests who knew Houston included athlete-entrepreneur Magic Johnson, music producer David Foster and musicians Smokey Robinson and Sheila E.

Relatives were invited, but declined, to participate in the "Whitney" project from the

start, explained Bassett. The Oscar-nominated actress marked her feature-directing debut with the biopic, which debuts Jan. 17 on the Lifetime cable network.

"But they didn't have anything negative to say about it," Bassett noted. "You know, sometimes to be silent is the greatest gift."

Bassett and Houston worked closely during production and promotion of the 1994 big-screen drama "Waiting to Exhale," and Bassett expressed fond memories of her co-star.

"To have had that experi-

ence of being around her," Bassett said, "all that came back to serve me in the making of this."

Nevertheless, without the family's blessing, the "Whitney" production was not allowed to use Houston's original recordings. So, to deliver something approximating Houston's distinctive voice, Bassett hired singer Deborah Cox, Houston's one-time label mate, recording partner and longtime friend.

Cox took the gig, even though she said it was destined to be a thankless assignment.

Downey, 'Big Bang' win big at People's Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Robert Downey Jr. was seeing double at the People's Choice Awards.

The star of "The Judge" and "Iron Man" picked up the trophies for favorite dramatic movie actor and favorite movie actor at Wednesday's fan-favorite ceremony honoring stars in film, television and music.

"This is perfect for me because I love people, I'm crazy about movies, and I prefer people who love my movies," Downey said.

"The Big Bang Theory" also won multiple honors. The sitcom about a group of scientists was awarded trophies for favorite network TV comedy and favorite TV show, while co-star Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting was chosen as favorite comedic TV actress.

"We truly have a love and passion for making this show together," said "Big Bang" co-star Johnny Galecki. "Honestly, it's a dream come true every day, and it's never lost on any of us for a split-second that it's entirely due to your love and support."

The gush-filled ceremony kicked off at the Nokia Theatre with "Mom" stars Anna Faris and Allison Janney quipping about their selection as the show's hosts.

"Oh, who are we kidding?" Farris joked. "Neil Patrick Harris was unavailable, and Ellen DeGeneres said she was busy."

However, DeGeneres wasn't completely booked. The talk show host was on hand to pick up the trophy for favorite daytime TV host.

Other winners in attendance

included Hunter Hayes as favorite male country artist, Matt Bomer as favorite cable TV actor, Chloe Grace Moretz as favorite dramatic movie actress and Chris Evans as favorite action movie actor.

"I'll say 30, 40 percent of the votes were my mom, but the other 60 percent, it really, really means a lot to me," Evans said. "I'm eternally grateful."

Melissa McCarthy was honored as favorite comedic movie actress, while Adam Sandler was selected as favorite comedic movie actor.

Ben Affleck was designated the humanitarian of the year for his work with the Eastern Congo Initiative, which he co-founded in 2010 with Whitney Williams. The organization advocates the economic and social growth of the country through various programs.

Iggy Azalea and Lady Antebellum, who performed during the People's Choice Awards with Fall Out Boy, were also champions. Azalea was deemed favorite hip-hop artist, while Lady Antebellum were crowned favorite country group.

"Grey's Anatomy" star Ellen Pompeo accepted the awards for both favorite dramatic TV actress and favorite network TV drama.

"Somehow, this never gets old," Pompeo said. "I have to say it actually gets better. We're 11 seasons in, and your passion for the show keeps us going."

A couple of Pompeo's absentee co-stars were also selected as victors: Patrick Dempsey for favorite dramatic TV actor and Sandra Oh as Cristina Yang for favorite TV character missed most.

Secret of son's parentage weighs on mother's mind

DEAR ABBY: I am worried about how my 10-year-old son, "Jake," will take some news he's not aware of yet. I wasn't able to have children, so my husband and I turned to in-vitro, using a donated egg from a family member. We thank God this method worked.

Our plan was to explain it to Jake when he got older, once he understood about the birds and the bees. Now I am starting to get this fear that he will be very upset when he learns about it and be angry with us.

I don't want him to go into a depression over it. What should we do? Should we wait like we planned? Should we have told him already? Or should we say nothing?

MOM IN CHICAGO

DEAR MOM: Not knowing Jake, I can't gauge his level of maturity. I'm not sure why being told how special he is, and how grateful you and your husband are to be his parents would send him into a depression. But because you think it might, discuss this with a child psychologist before talking to your son. Please don't put this off, because if other family members know about the egg donation, it is only a matter of time before the cat will be out of the bag, and it's better that Jake hears this information from you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old woman in grad school, and I

have noticed something about my male friends. Whenever they meet a new girl, the first comment out of their mouths is about her looks. Then they will expound at length on her physical assets (or lack thereof).

Abby, it makes me furious. Not only does it make me feel self-conscious about my own body, it also makes me angry that these talented, charming and outgoing girls are judged first by their cup size.

Is there anything I can say to my friends to make them amend their behavior? Or am I being overly sensitive and need to accept that this is a "guy thing"? Thanks for your input.

OBJECTIFIED IN OMAHA

DEAR OBJECTIFIED: It's a guy thing. That they talk this way in front of you may indicate that they consider you "one of the guys." Since it bothers you, speak up and suggest they knock it off. If you do, it may jar them back to reality.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I would love your take on a disagreement we've had since we were married. It's the age-old question, "So, where did you two meet?"

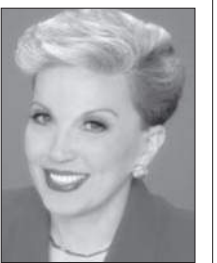
We met abroad at a university exchange program and were introduced to each other by our school sponsors in the bar where all the students hung out. We shook hands, exchanged greetings and I left right afterward.

I answer the question by saying, "We met in a bar." My wife

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



says, "We met in university." Who's right?

BAR NONE? IN TEXAS

DEAR BAR NONE: You both are, but have you never heard the adage, "A happy wife makes for a happy life"? My advice is to stick with her version.

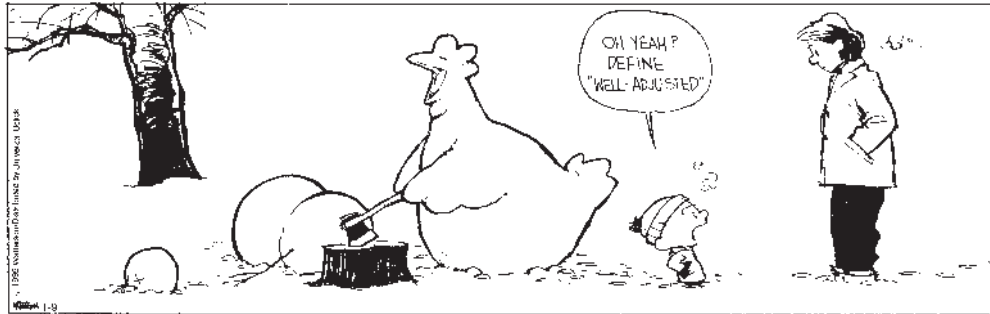
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis



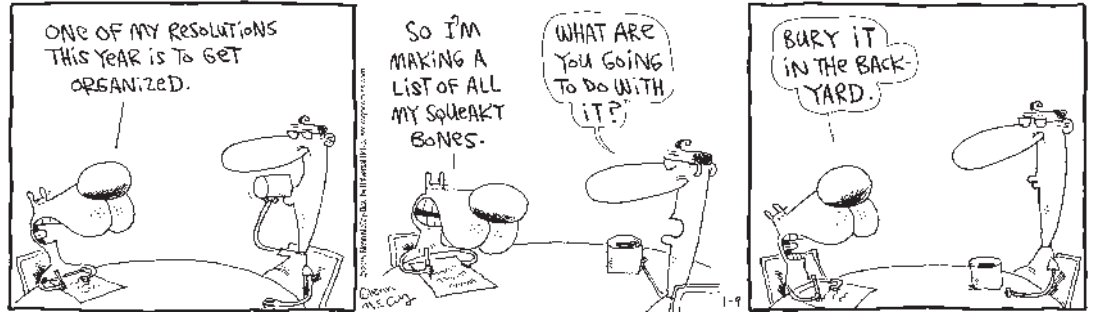
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Bonfire residue
4 Information
8 Close
12 Dance syllable
13 Open slightly
14 Corporate artwork
15 Skier's turning maneuver
17 Bygone, to Burns
18 Bobcat cousin
19 Tart, and then some
20 Domesticate
22 Prepare for a trip
24 Geological periods
25 Folksy
29 Atmosphere
30 Refuges
31 Raw rock
32 Redo
34 On the briny
35 Tarzan's pals

DOWN

36 Perfume ingredient
37 Boscs and Bartletts
40 "— Here to Eternity"
41 "— go brag!"
42 Web surfer's shortcut
46 Broad Places
48 — Speedwagon
49 Start a garden
50 Reedy
51 Family

2 That woman
3 Distinquishing characteristic
4 De-nounces
5 Trojan War hero
6 Pitch
7 Biblical boat
8 Casual trousers
9 Session with a shrink
10 Wrinkly fruit
11 Lincoln in-law
16 Spuds' buds
19 Dogfight fighters
20 Squad
21 La Scala show-stopper
22 Sits for a photog
23 U.S.
25 Own
26 Stamp canceler
27 Ammonia compound
28 Approach
30 "My bad"
33 Deserved
34 Teeny particle
36 Alan of "Little Miss Sunshine"
37 Cathedral seats
38 Pennsylvania port
39 Staffer
40 Centers of attention
42 Sandwich initials
43 Fireworks reaction
44 Outdoor gear retailer
45 "— -Tiki"

Solution time: 26 mins.

BL	AM	TAB	AS	II	Y
L	I	M	O	R	I
O	M	E	N	I	D
C	A	N	O	L	A
S	T	A	L	L	
H	O	N	E	R	
A	T	A	B	L	
H	O	T	P	U	R
H	A	N	D	V	E
S	L	E	T	L	O
A	R	M	S	E	E
P	L	A	Y	S	R

Yesterday's answer 1-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nina Dobrev, 26; Kate Middleton, 33; Dave Matthews, 48; Jimmy Page, 71.

Happy Birthday: Good fortune is heading your way. Take a look at your financial situation and how you can maximize your money in order to reach your economic goals. Opportunities to invest in something practical will help turn a small savings into something substantial. Invest in you, your surroundings and your future. Put your talents to work, and you will advance. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 27, 39, 44, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let work get to you. Take care of your responsibilities, go out with friends or move on to things you enjoy. Refuse to let anyone put demands on you that will interfere with your personal plans. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Communication will bring results. Checking into a new business venture will lead to unique suggestions. Sticking to a budget and investing in practical projects will help you ease stress and avoid conflicts with personal or professional partners. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Broaden your knowledge, interests and friendships. A change will help you view any emotional or professional situations from a different position. Greater clarity will help you make a good choice. Love is featured. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't give up on something or someone you really want in your life. Go the extra mile to en-

sure that things unfold in a favorable manner. Fix up your home to suit your changing needs, and you will impress someone you love. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let money, legal or medical matters turn into a costly affair. Make positive changes that will improve your appearance, outlook or prospects. Love is on the rise, and opening up about the way you feel will pay off. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Avoid a run-in with someone who can influence your professional standing. Manipulation is apparent by someone who puts demands on you. Go out with someone you can confide in, and you will be offered worthwhile suggestions. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Follow your intuition and don't let anyone bully you into doing something you don't want to do. Put your heart first and share your personal goals and intentions with someone you love. Positive changes will improve your standard of living. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't count on anyone or anything. You have to make your choices based on what you are willing to do. Let your creative imagination lead the way and you will discover talents and possibilities you didn't know existed. Forge ahead. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be fooled by emotional manipulation. Take charge and do the things you enjoy with the people who contribute and are as adventuresome and jubilant as you are. Romance

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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is encouraged and will improve your personal situation. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be a follower when you know you should be doing your own thing. Take charge of your life by sticking to methods that you know will work. A practical approach to life will lead to greater prosperity. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional blackmail is apparent. Step outside your comfort zone if it will help you get personal matters back on course. A change in the way you earn your living looks promising. Your day will improve if you end it with romance. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get everything in order before revealing your plan. A surprise will encourage someone close to you to lend a helping hand. Success will follow if you put forth the effort and energy required to see matters through to the end. ★★

Birthday Baby: You draw attention using insight and wisdom. You are inventive and practical.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7			3	4				8
6		1				3		9
					7			
		9						2
1			8					6
3						1		
			5					
9		2				7		3
8				9	1			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	9	5	6	8	1	7	2
6	8	1	2	7	9	4	5	3
7	2	5	4	3	1	8	6	9
9	3	6	1	8	5	2	4	7
1	7	4	9	2	6	5	3	8
8	5	2	3	4	7	9	1	6
4	9	7	8	5	3	6	2	1
5	6	8	7	1	2	3	9	4
2	1	3	6	9	4	7	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★

1/09

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

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Solution: 6 letters

G	E	F	L	A	V	O	R	S	N	W	A	N	G	D
P	O	L	I	S	H	O	F	F	O	O	D	K	H	T
P	E	R	B	N	D	E	E	H	S	G	G	C	U	S
L	D	T	G	B	I	N	C	T	H	L	N	A	N	E
U	I	V	S	E	O	S	U	D	I	U	I	N	G	G
G	N	I	Z	A	R	G	H	O	L	T	R	S	R	N
D	E	F	F	U	T	S	O	O	P	T	E	U	Y	I
S	T	E	I	D	B	I	N	G	E	O	T	P	O	T
C	O	N	S	U	M	P	T	I	O	N	A	N	P	S
H	U	T	R	P	M	O	H	C	B	Y	W	E	Y	A
E	E	G	N	I	H	C	N	U	M	I	H	T	T	E
W	L	A	E	M	A	S	T	I	C	A	T	E	L	F
I	I	N	D	U	L	G	E	N	C	E	U	E	A	E
N	I	B	B	L	E	S	W	A	L	L	O	W	S	E
G	D	I	N	N	E	R	E	N	N	A	M	S	R	D

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Appetite, Binge, Bites, Chewing, Chomp, Chow, Consumption, Diets, Dine, Dinner, Feasting, Feed, Finish, Flavors, Food, Gluttony, Gobble, Good, Gorge, Grazing, Grub, Gulp, Hungry, Indulgence, Ingest, Lunch, Manner, Masticate, Meal, Mouthwatering, Munching, Nibble, Nosh, Polish Off, Pounds, Salty, Snack, Sour, Stew, Stuffed, Swallow, Sweeten, Taste

Yesterday's Answer: Lights

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STUMPED?

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DAY & NIGHT

Griffin leads Clippers rout of Lakers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Blake Griffin scored 27 points, Chris Paul had 24 points and Matt Barnes added 19 in helping the Los Angeles Clippers rout the Lakers 114-89 Wednesday night for their ninth win in 10 games against the 16-time NBA champions.

Griffin just missed a triple-double, with nine rebounds and eight assists. DeAndre Jordan had 10 points and 13 rebounds, and J.J. Redick added 10 points as all five starters reached double figures. Paul had 11 assists.

The Clippers led by 10 after the opening quarter, stretched it to 22 points at halftime and were up by 36 going into the fourth in winning their fifth straight against the Lakers. They are enjoying their most successful stretch against the Lakers in franchise history.

Jordan Clarkson scored 14 points to lead the Lakers. Jordan Hill and Wayne Ellington added 13 points each. Kobe Bryant finished with four points, eight rebounds and seven assists after going scoreless in the first half.

The Clippers scored a season high in points in leading 70-48 at halftime. They closed on a 23-9 run, highlighted by five dunks, including three by Jordan. He dunked off a 3-point miss by Matt Barnes to end the half just after Redick found Griffin open in the lane for a windmill jam.

Hawks 96, Grizzlies 86

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored 25 points, and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Memphis Grizzlies 96-86 on Wednesday night for their sixth consecutive win.

Atlanta has won 20 of 22 overall. The Eastern Conference-leading Hawks also have a nine-game winning streak against teams from the West.

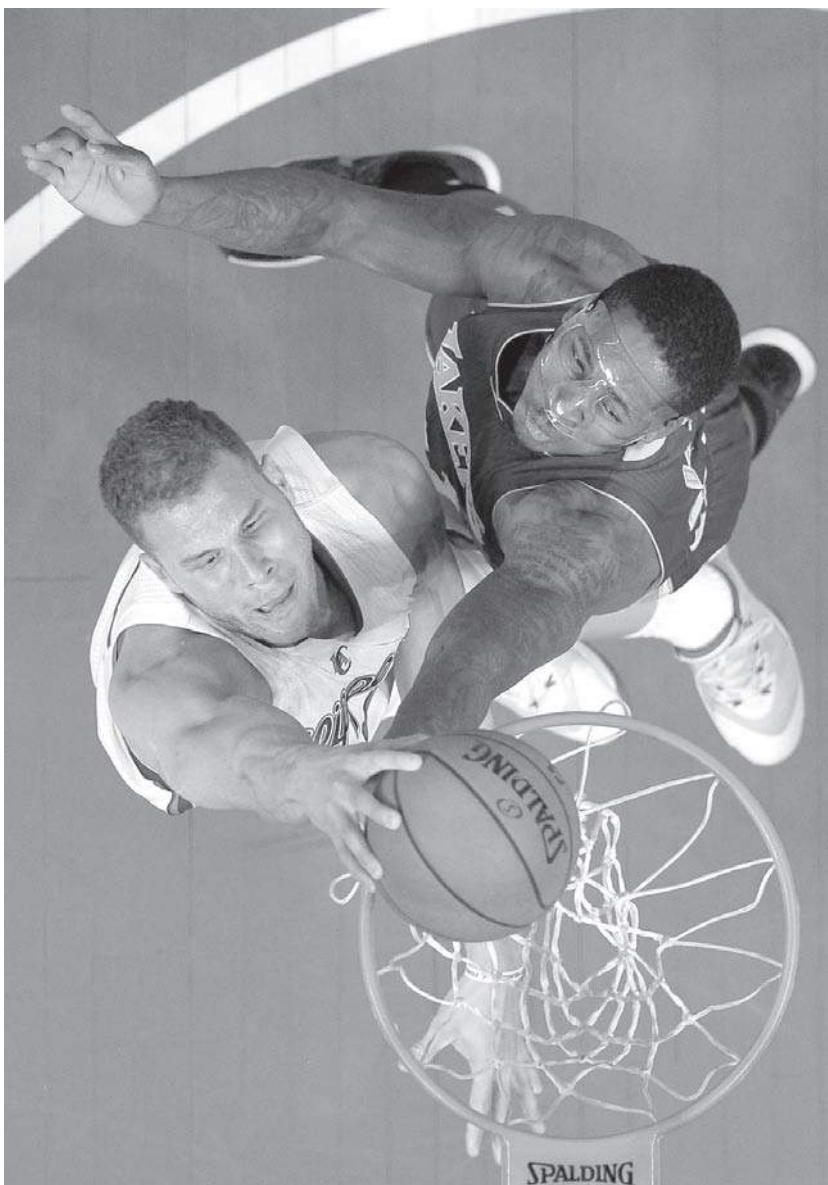
The Hawks grabbed control with a 10-0 run following an 84-all tie. Al Horford, who had 12 points, started the run with a jumper. Teague and Kyle Korver followed with 3-pointers and Teague added another basket for a 94-84 lead.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 17 points. Marc Gasol had 16.

Warriors 117, Pacers 102

In Oakland, Klay Thompson scored 40 points, and Golden State shook off a slow start on the way to its fifth straight win.

Thompson made 14 of 25 shots, including 6 of 11 from 3-point range, and Stephen Curry added 21 points and a season-high-tying 15 assists to help the NBA-leading Warriors (28-5) stretch



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, left, dunks as Los Angeles Lakers forward Ed Davis defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2015, in Los Angeles.

their home winning streak to 13 games.

The Pacers pulled ahead by 11 points early and gave Golden State a rare fight despite center Roy Hibbert limping off with a sprained left ankle in the first quarter.

Rockets 105, Cavaliers 93

In Cleveland, James Harden scored 21 points, Dwight Howard had 17 points and 19 rebounds, and Houston roared past Cleveland in the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers played their sixth straight game without LeBron James. The four-time NBA MVP said he's on target to return in a week from a strained back and knee.

The Rockets handed the Cavs their seventh loss in nine games.

Kyrie Irving scored a season-high 38 points for the Cavs, who lost their fourth straight at home. J.R. Smith didn't score in 19 minutes in

his Cleveland debut.

Hornets 98, Pelicans 94

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 31 points, including a tiebreaking three-point play with 1.4 seconds left, and Charlotte earned its third consecutive win.

Walker drove the right side of the lane and converted an 11-foot jumper after Jrue Holiday hit him on the arm. Walker then made the foul shot for a 97-94 lead.

The Pelicans had one last chance to tie, but Marvin Williams stole the inbound pass at half court and was fouled. He went 1 for 2 at the line to seal the victory.

Anthony Davis had 32 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks for New Orleans.

Wizards 101, Knicks 91

In Washington, the Knicks set a record

for longest in-season slide in the proud franchise's 69-year history.

The defeat was the Knicks' 13th in a row, surpassing the mark set at the end of the 1984-85 season, and their 23rd in 24 games. It featured all the now-familiar follies and a few new ones: passes that went nowhere, shots that became bricks, and Tim Hardaway Jr.'s bizarre decision to pass the ball away from the basket when he had a two-on-one fast break right in front of him.

Kings 104, Thunder 83

In Sacramento, Rudy Gay scored 28 points and Darren Collison added 24 to help Sacramento snap a 12-game losing streak to Oklahoma City.

DeMarcus Cousins had 23 points and 15 rebounds, and the Kings rolled to just their fourth win in 11 games under new coach Tyrone Corbin and first against Oklahoma City since Feb. 12, 2012.

Kevin Durant scored 24 points for the Thunder, who shot just 32.6 percent and lost both games of a brief Northern California road trip.

Suns 113, Timberwolves 111

In Minneapolis, Gerald Green scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, and Phoenix handed Minnesota its 13th straight loss.

Green hit three 3-pointers in the fourth, helping the Suns wipe away a seven-point deficit to start the period in the blink of an eye. Goran Dragic added 25 points and the Suns (22-16) survived a scare from the undermanned Timberwolves to win for the 10th time in 12 games.

Andrew Wiggins scored 25 points, but missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won the game for the Timberwolves, who haven't won since Dec. 10.

Jazz 97, Bulls 77

In Chicago, Derrick Favors had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Utah used a strong defensive effort to get the win.

The Jazz held the Bulls to a season-low point total on just 28-of-84 (33.3 percent) shooting. The Bulls were averaging 103.1 points.

Gordon Hayward had 18 points for Utah (13-23), and Trey Burke scored 17. Seven of the Jazz's wins have come on the road.

Jimmy Butler led the Bulls (25-11) with 16 points and 11 rebounds, and reserve Taj Gibson added 15 points.

Pistons 108, Mavericks 95

In Dallas, D.J. Augustin scored 17

of his 26 points in the fourth quarter, and Detroit earned its seventh consecutive victory.

The Pistons (12-23) have the NBA's longest current winning streak.

Greg Monroe had 27 points and 18 rebounds for Detroit. Brandon Jennings added 14 points, and Jodie Meeks had 11.

Andre Drummond had a game-high 19 boards for the Pistons, who out-rebounded the Mavericks 60-43.

Dallas (26-11) had won six in a row.

Nuggets 93, Magic 90

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored 23 points in Denver's third consecutive win, and Arron Afflalo had 17 against his former team.

The Nuggets also got a key contribution from Jusuf Nurkic, who had eight points in his first career start in place of Timofey Mozgov, who was traded to Cleveland earlier in the day in exchange for two first-round draft picks.

Nikola Vucevic scored 20 points for the Magic, who lost for the sixth straight time in Denver. Victor Oladipo had 17 points.

Celtics 89, Nets 81

In New York, Avery Bradley scored 21 points, and Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

Tyler Zeller added 18 points for the Celtics, who won for just the second time in nine games by outplaying the Nets over the final three quarters after a slow start. They trailed by 11 in the first half but gradually pulled away after halftime despite shooting under 40 percent for the game.

Joe Johnson scored 17 points for the Nets, who dropped their third in a row and fell to 16-19. Mason Plumlee had 16 points and 12 rebounds but shot just 6 for 11 at the free-throw line.

Bucks 97, 76ers 77

In Philadelphia, Brandon Knight and Khris Middleton scored 18 points apiece, leading Milwaukee to the victory.

The Bucks (19-18) shot 53.9 percent from the field in their fifth consecutive road win. Zaza Pachulia had 11 points and 12 rebounds, and reserve O.J. Mayo added 15 points.

K.J. McDaniels scored 14 points for the Sixers (5-29), who were trying to win consecutive home games for the first time since the start of the 2013-14 season.

The Sixers shot 30.1 percent from the field.

Hall inductees share memories of long careers



NEW YORK (AP)—From the moment John Smoltz stood on a chair to place a cap atop 6-foot-10 Randy Johnson's head, it

was clear this gathering of baseball's newest Hall of Famers was going to be different than those in past years.

"I just wanted to be funny," Smoltz said Wednesday at the Waldorf Astoria hotel. "He's 6-10 and he was struggling with his jersey. I was trying to help him with his hat."

The always canny Pedro Martinez greeted Craig Biggio with an apology of sorts.

"I'm extremely honored to be here with all of you. Craig. I know I brushed you back a couple of times. It wasn't intentional," he said.

On this day, the fierce competitors were all teammates in jerseys with "Hall of Fame" in red script stitched across the chest.

"I still love you," Biggio said. "It's OK."

There was a lot of love, laughter and admiration among the largest induction class elected by the writers since 1955. Some of the highlights of the nearly hour-long news conference:

On his connection with former

Braves teammates Gregg Maddux and Tom Glavine, who were known for pitching on the corners—sometimes getting a wider strike zone than usual:

"Everyone kind of assumes the three of us together and links us together," Smoltz said. "Everyone's feeling is we got 6 inches off the plate. I didn't, by the way. So don't believe that. I didn't. I didn't."

Biggio answered Smoltz several minutes later: "I agree with John. It wasn't 6 inches off the plate. It was more like 6 to 10."

Martinez on being elected to the Hall, where he visited when he was a

young player with the Montreal Expos and had an immediate appreciation of the game's history:

"I couldn't imagine how the game was. I could only wonder, but I'm extremely honored to be going back now, being part of it, being looked at as an old goat. That's what we all became. We became old goats now. They're going to be like, 'Oh, look, that's Pedro, that's John. That was back then.' So we all became old goats after yesterday."

Smoltz got some good advice on how to put away batters:

"I learned it from Tom Glavine who never really showed any emotion, which

is the reason why he won 300 games and was a Hall of Famer. I learned if you didn't have what you needed that day, fake it; don't let them know."

Johnson had a different take on faking it:

"For me it was hard to fake. You either saw 95 to 100 (mph) or you didn't. ... The one thing I had going for me is I could throw really hard. I was kind of like that Sports Illustrated story that came out a long time ago ('The Curious Case of Sidd Finch' from April 1, 1985), a kid wearing overalls in a hay field, being able to throw a hundred miles an hour. That was me. I was like Nuke LaLoosh in 'Bull Durham' that hit the mascot. I was a combination of all that until it finally came together for me."

Rodgers sits out practice, still expected to start



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Aaron Rodgers didn't practice Wednesday because of a lingering left calf injury. The quarterback left no doubt about his plans for Sunday when the Green Bay Packers host the Dallas Cowboys.

"No, I'm going Sunday," Rodgers said. "Just a matter of how."

Missing practice was part of the plan for Rodgers, who has dealt with the injury for about three weeks. While the Packers practiced inside the frigid Hutson Center training facility, Rodgers stayed exclusively in the training room for treatment.

He hopes that occasional acupuncture will also help, along with the valuable rest that the Packers received for earning a bye for the opening round of the playoffs. It's possible Rodgers could also wear a wrap to further protect his lower left leg.

There is progress, though "it's never enough for Aaron," coach Mike McCarthy said. "But I think the training staff feels good about it and we feel confident in the direction we're going."

Rodgers at less than 100 percent health is still better than most other quarterbacks. Two weeks ago against Detroit, Rodgers had to be carted to the locker room after aggravating the calf injury.

He limped back on to the field in the middle of the third quarter, throwing for one score and tumbling in from 1 yard for another to help lead the Packers to victory and a fourth straight NFC North crown.

Rodgers is such a stickler for preparation that no one in the locker room doubts the team's leader can play well without practice.

"We would definitely love to be able to have that preparation, but health is the most important thing for him at this time. You've got to trust the system," receiver Randall Cobb said.

The injury, though, has limited Rodgers' mobility the last two weeks, which in turn has affected his trademark ability to extend plays. That mobility has bailed out the Packers in potentially troublesome situations time and again in Rodgers' seven years as starter.

The rest of the Packers have promised they will help pick up any slack.

In the passing game, that means an offensive line that has been playing well might need to hold blocks longer to protect Rodgers in what would have otherwise been a scrambling situation.

Receivers who must be prepared in order to earn Rodgers' trust and targets must be even sharper on the field.

"Just making sure you're cre-



AP
Green Bay Packers' Aaron Rodgers is taken off the field after injuring his leg during the first half of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Sunday, Dec. 28, 2014, in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

ating more separation and just doing everything you can to make sure you're running your route as well as possible, make it less (stressful for) him," rookie wideout Davante Adams said.

Rodgers didn't roll out much the last two games after getting hurt. The Packers lined him up in shotgun formations much of the time, even on running plays. Rodgers still displayed his typi-

cally accurate arm in making quick-strike tosses on slants and other short routes.

In the win against Tampa Bay, Rodgers used "no-look" passes to try to take advantage when the defense was in zone coverage.

"Look at the No. 3 receiver and throw it to No. 2. Did that a few times against Tampa, and the reaction from the defender is always fun," Rodgers said. "It's just a matter of manipulating defenders with your eye control."

And even with the sore calf, don't forget that Rodgers still called for a quarterback sneak against Detroit that led to a 1-yard score.

Woods to return for Phoenix Open



ARIZONA (AP)—Tiger Woods hasn't played in the Waste Management Phoenix Open since 2001. According to a Golf.com report, that drought will end later in January.

The publication cites two anonymous sources saying Woods is a lock to return to the event after a 13-year absence. The tournament starts January 29 and is played this year over Super Bowl weekend, with the added bonus of University of

Phoenix Stadium hosting the NFL's championship game in the Phoenix-metro area. One of the most highly attended events on the PGA Tour, the Waste Management Phoenix Open is played at TPC Scottsdale, which was recently renovated by original architect Tom Weiskopf.

The report cites a tournament official who says Woods has already reserved a courtesy car for the event, as well another source claiming Woods has already booked a hotel room at

the nearby Four Seasons Resort.

Woods doesn't have to make a commitment to play official before January 23, the Friday before tournament week. He typically doesn't announce his entry until that deadline. If Woods does play in Phoenix, it'll be his season debut, followed by his typical start at the Farmers Insurance Open the following week at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

The 14-time major winner has made three previous Phoenix starts, finishing T-18 in 1997, third in 1999 and fifth

in 2001. In 1997, Woods made a hole-in-one on the layout's 16th hole, a par 3 whose single-day attendance typically outdraws the entire, whole-course gallery for a single day at other PGA Tour events. The ace lead to Woods' roof-raising celebration that was an early highlight of his career.

Despite the positive results inside the ropes, Woods had to deal with fans who were security risks. In 1999, a Woods heckler was tackled by security and found to have a gun. Two years later, a fan threw an orange onto a green while Woods was putting.



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Ohio State underdog against Oregon



T E X A S
(AP)—Oregon obliterated Florida State. Ohio

State sneaked past Alabama in a close one. One team has a Heisman Trophy winner at quarterback. One team is starting its third-stringer. One team has a coach who hasn't won a national championship. One team has a coach with two titles under his belt.

Both teams have peaked at the right time this season, however, setting up what should be a memorable national championship. Below, you'll find viewing and odds information on this contest, along with an outlook for this matchup and a prediction of which team will win.

Ohio State was overlooked by more than a few folks ahead of its showdown against Alabama. It wouldn't be wise to overlook the Buckeyes heading into their contest against Oregon.

The storylines for Ohio State might center on the legacy of head coach Urban Meyer or how the team was resilient enough to survive the loss of two quarterbacks this season or how tight-knit this group of players is.

Make no mistake—all of the above might be true, but this is a really, really talented squad.

Devin Smith and Michael Thomas form an excellent one-two punch at wide receiver. Ezekiel Elliott might be the most underrated running back in the country. Defensive end Joey Bosa has 13.5 sacks this season. Quarterback Cardale Jones might be the team's third-stringer, but he'd start for most programs. Defensive tackle Michael Bennett has been down-



Oregon wide receiver Devon Allen, left, is tackled by Florida State linebacker Reggie Northrup during the first half of the Rose Bowl NCAA college football playoff semifinal, Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015, in Pasadena, Calif.

right dominant late in the season for the Buckeyes.

Ohio State may have been the last team into the playoff, per the selection committee's rankings, but its talent was never in question. It won't roll over and die for the high-powered Oregon offense; that much is certain.

But that Oregon offense, led by Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Mariota, must be admired. The nation's No. 2 scoring offense blew past Florida State's defense, aided by an opportunistic defense.

The King of the Lanes crown capped Manacop's amazing year that saw him become the only CNMI bowler to qualify in the Masters event of the 28th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships held last November in San Juan City, Philippines.

He finished 13th overall to clinch a spot in the Masters event where the Top 16 bowlers advanced.

SWEET

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tory.

It was a huge disappointment for Zapanta, who dethroned Manacop last year, after clinching the top seeding in the nine-game roll-off and the first finals berth. He only needed to beat Manacop once, but had a measly 132 in the first game and could not keep up with his foe's impressive performance in the second and last with his 194 and a 326 tally.

Zapanta scored 244, 211, 176, 211, 178, 227, 175, 143, and 212 in the nine-game roll-off for a 1,777 total and 197.44 average. Manacop finished third, bowling 182, 234, 178, 188, 161, 189, 185, 201, and 170 for 1,688 as he trailed Raymond Angeles—210, 221, 188, 181, 186, 191, 197, 211 and 149 (1,734)—by 46 pins.

Manacop faced Angeles in the stepladder semifinals and foiled an all-Raymond finale with a 182-163 decision.

It was Manacop's third title in four seasons, as he also ruled the 2011 and 2012 competitions.

Ruselle Zapanta, Robert Talavera, Lito Teodoro, Raul Dumpait, Tony Verdager, MJ Aldan, Bernard Paraiso, Rusty Musca, Edward Baluyan, Ariel Dumapit, Paul Pangelinan, Percy Omechelang, Ador Dimaano, Jae Yong Kim, Raphael Zapanta, Roger De Guzman, Ronald Batac, Edgar Abalos, Yong Woon Lee, and Ben C. Aizon were the other male bowlers who qualified in the season-ending tournament sponsored by Budweiser and Marpac.

Manacop shared the 2014 top honors with Diana Camacho, who was named Queen of the Lanes after emerging on top of the eight-game roll-off and beating Yho Villavicencio in the

CNMI men's golf team tryout set on Jan. 24

By **JON PEREZ**
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REPORTER



The open tryout for the CNMI men's national golf team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games is set on Jan. 24 at the Coral Ocean Golf Resort.

The Refaluwasch Golf Association is spearheading the tryout through the efforts of Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi. Check in time is at 10m and shotgun start is 11am.

"There's interest in forming a national golf team to compete

in the Pacific Games. We want to form a 4-member men's team since Jan. 16 is the deadline for entry by numbers for sports federations competing in the Pacific Games," said Rogolifoi.

"We need to inform NMSA that we're sending a team. That's why RGA, which represents the golfers in the Northern Marianas Sports Association, is leading the way to get things organized."

Members of RGA and the Marinas Golf Association attended yesterday's meeting and they discussed the preparations for the one-day tryout, which will follow a gross play format for 18 rounds.

A \$100 fee will be collected, which includes the green fees. The remaining amount after

the green fees are deducted will be the startup fund for the golf team's trip to Papua New Guinea.

RGA member Ed Peters is inviting all golfers to tryout and show their support to the CNMI national men's team.

"This is an open tryout and regardless of the players association everyone must work and play hard for them to get on the team. We just need the best four players that will represent the CNMI in the Pacific Games," said Peters in a telephone interview.

Peters showed interest in coaching the team and Rogolifoi has requested that the long-time CNMI golfer submit his credentials.

There is a tendency to sometimes credit Oregon's scheme for all of its success, but Bleacher Report's Matt Miller doesn't think you should overlook how good Mariota has been.

The one team that played both squads in the national title game, Michigan State, has a unique perspective on this contest.

In many ways, Oregon and Ohio State are similar. They have excellent offenses and underrated defenses. They don't turn the ball over, and they keep drives alive. They have players who can change a game with one reception or carry. They have gotten progressively better as the season has gone on.

This is going to be one heck of a game and one heck of a way to usher in the new College Football Playoff era. As for a prediction, Oregon's unique offense is firing all cylinders, and it is led by the best player in college football, Mariota, which will give the Ducks the slightest of advantages here. In a straight-up bet, Oregon is the way to go. But if you are playing the spread, take the points with Ohio State.

Either way, expect a game for the ages.

SHIRLEY'S

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tered in leading Shirley's to a come-from-behind win over IT&E last weekend despite sizzling for a season-high 22 points, was still on fire in their fifth game, recording 21 points against Fiesta.

The Marianas High School standout scored 12 straight points in the second half, giving Shirley's more breathing room after the team led by only a hair at the break, 19-18. Castillo's teammates then stepped up in the latter part of the second half to pull off the 6-point win.

Negahr Rastguiy tallied 4 straight points, while Diane Pablo drilled 5 of the team's last 7 markers. Jasmine Phan regis-

tered the 2 other points of Shirley's in the homestretch.

While Castillo drew some support from her teammates, it was a different story for Fiesta, which had only two players making it to the board in the second half. Jahnelle Francisco knocked in 12 points, while Friendly Joy Pena chipped in 6.

Lian Reyes had two early triples in the first half and 8 points at the break before going cold in the second half, while Sheryl Cabrera was the fourth scorer for Fiesta, but made only 2 points.

Meanwhile, games in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic will continue this weekend.

Tonight, Rollers 3 takes on the Ol'Aces for the first boys

U19 game at 5:30pm, while in the second match at 7pm, IT&E duels Fiesta Resort in the women's pairing. For the last match of the night, the Sonics challenge Kagman Risers at 8pm.

Tomorrow, there will be a triple-header in the women's division with Fiesta meeting Sun Palace Hotel in the first match at 5:30pm, Armatech facing IT&E in the second tiff at 7pm, and Shirley's battling Kanoa in the third game at 8pm.

Shirley's 42—Castillo 21, Pablo 11, Rastguiy 7, Vergara 2, Phan 2.

Fiesta Resort 36—Francisco 15, Pena 11, Reyes 8, Cabrera 2.

Scoring by halves: 19-18, 42-36.

Traditionally, there are two alternate members, but they won't be joining the trip to Port Moresby and instead will stay on Saipan. The alternates will only go to replace a team member in case of injury or other unforeseen circumstances.

A total of 12 medals will be at stake in the four-day golf tournament, including the men's and women's singles, and men's and women's team events.

The 2015 Pacific Games is set from July 4 to 18 in Papua New Guinea with the Royal Port Moresby Golf Club in the National Capital District in Port Moresby hosting the event.

New Caledonia dominated the golf competition when it hosted the 2011 edition of the Pacific Games in Noumea, sweeping all four gold medals—men's and women's singles, and team events. The host added two silver and one bronze medals to its collection.

DOLPHINS

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meo 6, Taitano 5, Cruz 4.

KHS JV 27—Tenorio 14, Jones 7, Castro 4, Quitugua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-4, 18-16, 24-22, 34-27.

Third Game

MHS 74—Factor 15, Espinosa 13, De Leon 9, Mendoza 9, Montes 8, Ong 8, Manalili 5, Malonzo 4, Benavente 3.

GCA 20—W. Yu 10, Lee 4, H. Yu 4, Hong 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-8, 43-12, 59-17, 74-20.

Lightning, Thunder clash for CFL youth title

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

The undefeated Eastern Lightning are heavily favored to defend their title in the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League.

The Lightning, who swept all the four games they played in the regular season, take on the Southern Thunder at 1pm tomorrow at the CPA Airport Field. This weekend's title game is a rematch of last year's with the Lightning hoping for a repeat of their 37-0 rout of the Thunder during the revival of the youth league.

Quarterback Donavin Ada and Zander Tkel are the two main reasons the Eastern crew of head coach Dave Ada are on their way to another title sweep.

Ada has been a steady presence in dictating their offense, completing 17 of his 52 total passes for 395 yards, while also rushing for 217. He combined for 7 tackles on the defensive side.

Tkel supported Ada's perfor-

mance with a total of 568 rushing and 82 receiving yards and then completed 3 of 5 passes for 66 yards as a backup QB. He also had 16 tackles during the regular season.

The Lightning, behind Ada and Tkel, tallied per game averages of 37.8 points and 361 yards.

The Thunder, on the other hand, finished with a 2-2 record and play more of a spreadout offense with three players expected to lead the charge in their title drive.

Napu Atalig, Brent Azarcon, and N-Nes Siech combined for 560 yards in receiving, rushing, and passing for the Thunder.

Atalig rushed for 104 yards, Azarcon passed for 163 yards after going 5-of-10, while Siech had 152 receiving yards.

The Thunder are aiming for some payback after dropping both of their games against the Lightning, including a 32-0 thrashing last Dec. 20. Their two wins were against the Northern Vikings.



JON PEREZ
The Eastern Lightning's Donavin Ada is chased by three Southern Thunder defenders during their regular season game in the Commonwealth Football League Association's 2014 Youth Football League last month at the CPA Airport Field.

4 AFC events await CNMI youth teams



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of CNMI Girls U14 National Team do warm-up drills before playing in an Asian Football Confederation event in Beijing, China last year.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER



The CNMI will continue to grace Asian Football Confederation-sanctioned events as the Commonwealth has been invited to four AFC youth tournaments this year.

First on the list is the AFC Boys U14 Festival scheduled for April 17 to 30 in Beijing, China. Then the following month, it will be the turn of the CNMI Girls U14 National Team to compete also in Beijing, which will host the AFC U14 Regional Tournament from May 19 to 24. The last two AFC events for the Commonwealth are scheduled in the latter part of the year. The AFC Boys U16 Qualifier is set for Sept. 12 to 20, while the AFC Boys U19 Qualifier is slated for Oct. 2 to 10. Venues for both qualifiers have yet to be announced.

The four AFC competitions are the highlights of another busy season for Northern Mariana Is-

lands Football Association, as it lines up three more off-island events besides its regular leagues and tournaments for youth, men's and women's players, grassroots programs, and referee and coaches clinics/seminars.

The association has been invited to the Hong Kong Football Association Invitational in April and HKFA Cup in June, while the other off-island event may take place in Guam (Marianas Cup for boys U13 and girls U13), but details of the latter tournament have yet to be finalized.

For its local competitions, NMIFA will kick off the 2015 NMIFA Youth Spring League next month. The co-ed U12, boys and girls U15, and boys U18 teams of the various football clubs on the island will play the competitive league from Feb. 6 to April 11, while U6, U8, and U10 squads will join the non-competitive games. The M-League will also open its spring season next month, while the 2015 NMIFA Interscholastic Football League for U12 play-

ers from both public and private schools in the CNMI will be held later this year (late October to early December).

The association will also coordinate with various schools for its National Elite Academy's program. NEA will select players from chosen schools and they will train for a certain period of time and compete in Choco Milk Cup, which will be held twice this year—May 30 and Dec. 5.

As for coaches, NMIFA has lined up three courses. The NMIFA D-License course is set for Jan. 17 to 18 and 24 to 25, the E-License is scheduled for May 9, and the AFC C-License is slated from Nov. 30 to Dec. 13.

Meanwhile, NMIFA will host three Japanese teams next month. First up is the Japan Soccer College, which is scheduled to visit Saipan and play a couple of games from Feb. 3 to 6. Champion College Team is next on the line with its Feb. 17 visit, while the returning Ehime University will be here from Feb. 21 to March 1.

8 teams zero in on finals berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER



The finals cast in the three divisions of the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament is shaping up heading into the last three days of elimination games at the TSL Sports Complex.

In the co-ed U12 age group, the Lil Rascals and Team Betde are the frontrunners in the race for the two finals seats with the former leading the four-team field with their 3-1-0 win-draw-loss record. Team Betde is ranked second with its 3-0-1 slate, while Sisig United (1-0-3) and Orange Rangers (0-1-3) complete standings. The Top 2 finishers in the group after the double-round robin elimination will duke it out for the division title on Jan. 17.

The Lil Rascal and Team Betde collide today in the second game at 6pm in what could be a finals preview, while in the first match at 5pm, Sisig United duels Orange Rangers. The Lil Rascals prevailed in their first meeting with Team Betde, pulling off a 6-4 victory in their Dec. 28 game.

In the third tiff at 7pm, it will be Lady Blues versus Matansa Sparks for the girls U15 pairing. Lady Blues is on top of the leaderboard with its 4-0-0 record and is likely to notch

the first finals berth in the division. Matansa is in second place with its 2-1-1 mark and needs to win one of its last two matches to prevent Girly Flowers & Rainbows (1-1-2) from spoiling the former's finals date with Lady Blues. Orange Rangers (0-0-4) complete the division and will try to barge into the win column this Saturday when they take on the Lady Blues at 5:30pm. Matansa and Girly Flowers & Rainbows square off in the third match this Saturday at 6:30pm.

In the boys U15 division, co-leaders Real Crispy Pata and Astig Futsal are headed for a title showdown. The pacesetters hold similar 3-1-0 records to zero in on the two finals slots. Matansa Blazers (1-0-3) and Orange Rangers (0-0-3) are the two other teams entered in the boys U15 division.

Astig Futsal will go for the

solo division lead tonight when it faces Matansa Blazers at 8pm, while Crispy Pata will challenge Orange Rangers tomorrow in the last game at 7:30pm.

The two remaining boys U15 matches will be played this Sunday with Astig Futsal battling Real Crispy Pata in a finals peek at 6:30pm and Matansa Blazers fighting Orange Rangers at 7:30pm. In the co-ed U12, it will be Orange Rangers versus Lil Rascals at 4:30pm, while in the second match at 5:30pm, Girly Flowers & Rainbows will collide against Orange Rangers.

Once the elimination round games are completed, the league will take a five-day break before playing the three division finals. The co-ed U12 title game is set for next Saturday at 4:30pm, while the girls and boys U15 finale matches are scheduled for 5:30pm and 6:30pm, respectively.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Lady Blues defender, right, tries to keep up with a Girly Flowers & Rainbows during their girls U15 game in the 2014 SSS Christmas Youth Futsal Tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.



Griffin leads
Clippers rout
of Lakers

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lightning,
Thunder
clash for CFL
youth title

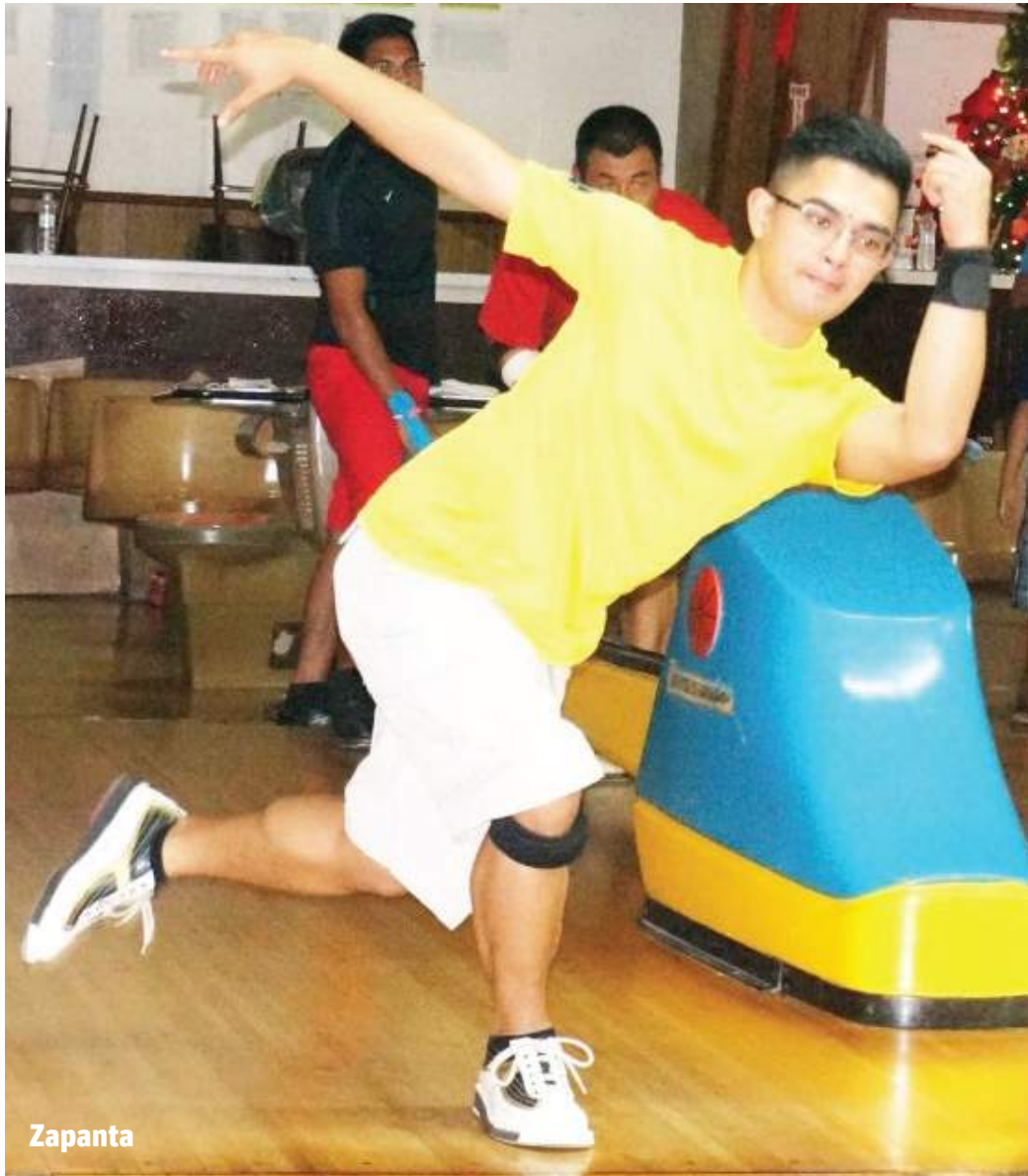
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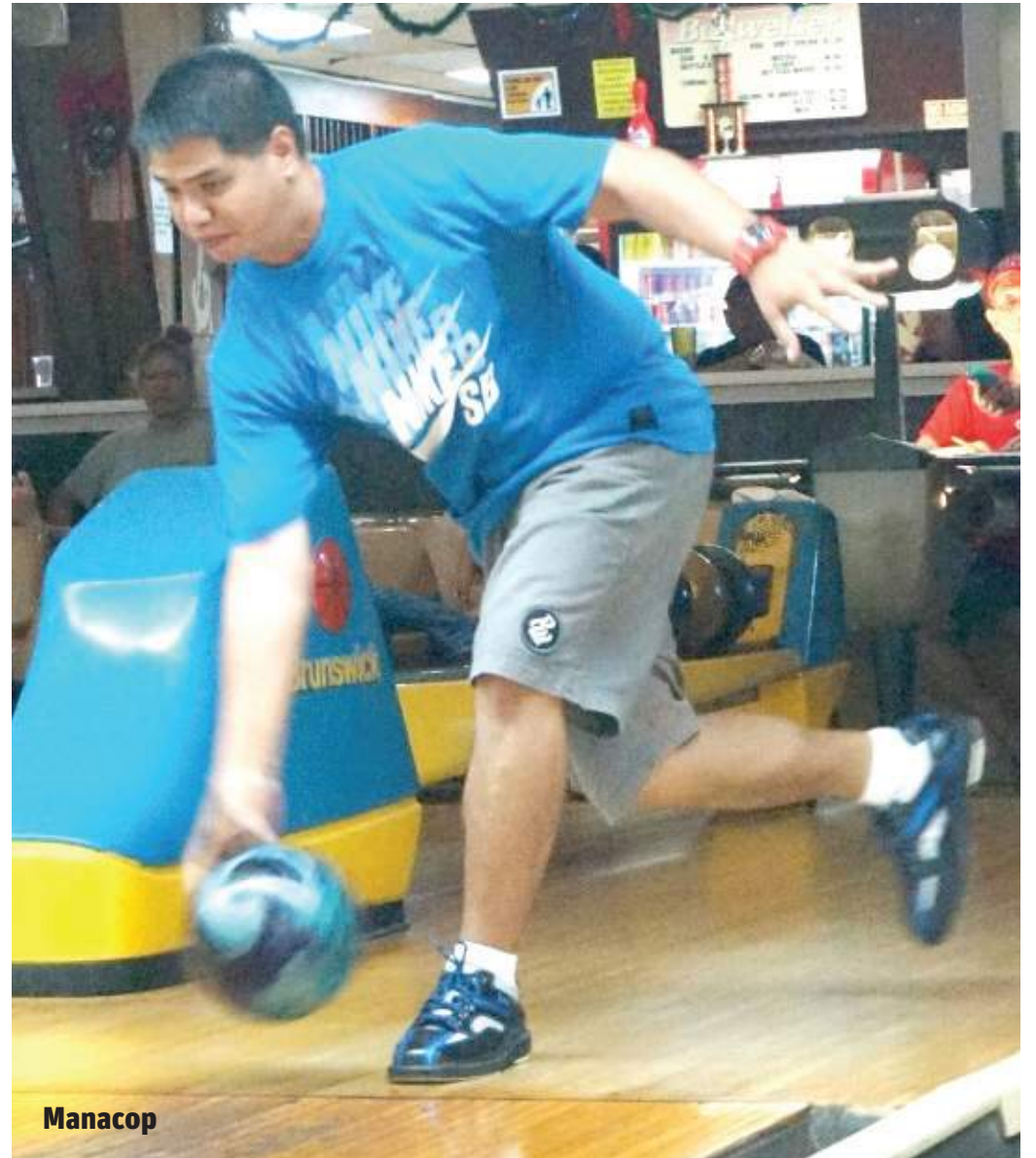
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Sweet revenge for King Simon



Zapanta



Manacop

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Revenge is truly sweet for Simon Manacop, as the veteran bowler overcame Raymond Zapanta's twice-to-beat advantage to rule the 2014 Budweiser King of the Lanes held last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.



Manacop, denied of a 3-peat by Zapanta in the 2013 finale, capitalized on his opponent's so-so game in the finals with 210 and 207 in Games 1 and 2 for a 417 total and a 99-pin vic-

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Dolphins, Mantas beat foes in contrasting fashion

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Defending champion Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High

School's junior varsity defeated their respective foes in contrasting fashion during the opening day of the 2014 Marianas Interscholastic Boys Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Dolphins, who have a roster heavily stacked with scorers at all fronts, showed their strong intention of retaining the crown with an easy 74-20 shellacking of Grace Christian Academy, while SSHS pulled off a 34-27 decision against Kagman High School's junior varsity side. MHS beat Kagman High School, 37-36, on a Mike Arciaga putback in last year's finale to get the crown they last won in 2008.

In their first game of the season, the Dolphins zoomed to an early 18-8 lead after 10 minutes of play and were never threatened after that as the Eagles showed little resistance.

Prince Factor led MHS' balanced scoring with 15 points, while Michael Espinosa chipped in 13 markers. Karlo De Leon, Kobbie Mendoza,

Tristan Montes, and D-Jay Ong combined for 34 points.

Winson Yu was the lone GCA player who scored in double digits with 10.

Saipan Southern, meanwhile, used a late scoring run down the stretch to escape with a 34-27 win in a low scoring JV game against Kagman.

No Southern player hit double digits with Maku Ogasawara leading his team with 7 points and June Alipio, Isaac Anderson, and Art Borromeo chipping in 6 each.

Roke Tenorio paced all scorers with 14, while Darion Jones finished with 7 for Kagman.

Southern JV and MHS varsity joined MHS 9 in the win column, as the latter kicked off the action in the MISO caging with a 42-32 victory over KHS 9.

Second Game

SSH JV 34-Ogasawara 7, Alipio 6, Anderson 6, Borromeo

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Shirley's bounces back, tops Fiesta

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Shirley's Coffee Shop recovered quickly, defeating Fiesta Resort & Spa, 42-36, in the lone women's division game played in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the victory, Shirley's, which fell short to IT&E last Saturday, 39-42, improved its record to 3-2 for a tie for second with the Fiesta and the

streaking IT&E. Armatech leads the six-team field with its flawless 4-0 mark, while Kanoa Resort (1-3) and the winless Sun Palace Hotel (0-5) complete the division.

Jeraldine Castillo, who fal-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Diane Pablo dribbles toward their frontcourt, while three IT&E players surround her during their game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Badminton Classic last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

